



Gimme shelter: Mick Jagger at an open-air Rolling Stones concert in The Hague

Hawking condemns animal rights activists

STEPHEN HAWKING, the Nobel prize-winning scientist, has condemned activists who try to block experiments on animals. "Computers can do amazing things, but even the most powerful computers can't replace animal experiments in medical research," he said yesterday.

In a message to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting this week at Cardiff University, Professor Hawking said: "I think the fuss over the use of animals in medical research is ridiculous. Why is it worse to use animal experiments to save lives than to eat them, which the majority of the population are happy to?"

"I suspect that extremists turn to animal rights from a lack of the more worthwhile causes of the past like nuclear disarmament." The author of *A Brief History of Time* is a patron of Seriously Ill for Medical Research, a patients' charity set up to challenge the views of campaigners who claim medical testing on animals is unnecessary. Other patrons include Jane Asher, the actress, John Diamond, the *Times* columnist, Faith Brown, the comedienne, and Jonathan Miller, the director and scientist.

Professor Hawking, the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, contributed to the debate on the value of animal experimentation. The debate coincides with

Scientist says computers will never be powerful enough to replace live experiments, reports Nick Nuttall

the retirement of Professor Colin Blakemore of Oxford University as president of the association. His arrival at the festival was delayed yesterday after activists targeted a cat farm at Hill Grove, near Witney, Oxfordshire, where animals are bred for experiments including ones carried out at Professor Blakemore's laboratory. The farm is near his home.

Professor Blakemore, who carries out pioneering research into the human nervous system and the brain, said the police had delayed him for an hour and were still there in the early evening.

He said: "This is because of splinter groups coming down and attacking my home. It has been 11 years now since I have been living with threats, letter bombs both real and fake, property damage, five cars badly damaged, threats against my kids, death threats against my wife and my secretary, having my hands cut by razor blades in envelopes. It is unbelievable pressure."

He said that his laboratory used about six kittens a year from the farm in experiments aimed at unravelling diseases in humans including deafness and blindness. This was, like



Hawking: "fuss over use of animals is ridiculous"

laboratories across Britain, the lowest level yet. "They are used for studies of the cerebral cortex and a new technique for imaging the cerebral cortex. This is very closely linked with new brain imaging techniques in human beings," said Professor Blakemore.

He rejected claims that the experiments involved cruelty. "All the work is done on anaesthetised animals. It is given a single injection and never wakes up."

Professor Blakemore said that rights groups wanted alternatives to animal experi-

ments, and that they were developing these too. "I and many other people have put huge efforts into this in the last ten years, particularly tissue culture methods. I have not been unresponsive to campaigning, it makes us all aware that we need to reduce and refine techniques. But the public has to realise there are areas where there are no substitutes," he said.

Mike Baker, chief executive of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, claimed that alternatives to animal experiments existed but that these were "underfunded, underused and their implementation is blocked at every turn."

Andrew Blake, director and founder of Seriously Ill for Medical Research, last night condemned the violence and intimidation of Professor Blakemore and other scientists involved in animal experiments.

Mr Blake, who suffers from Friedrich's ataxia, a wasting disease, founded the group because he feared the activities of animal rights groups were threatening the future of medical research. It supports humane animal research into disabling diseases, incurable and progressive diseases. Two years ago, the charity called on animal rights campaigners to pledge never to undergo medical treatments that were developed with the help of animal research, such as blood transfusions and antibiotics.

Drinkers locked in over cat farm row

By A CORRESPONDENT

DRINKERS enjoying a Sunday afternoon pint were locked into their local yesterday after an angry confrontation with animal rights activists.

Trouble flared when the regulars responded to loud chanting from protesters about Hill Grove Farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for scientific experiments.

Mounted police broke up the two groups and the landlord locked his drinkers inside the Windrush.

More than 600 people had travelled from all over the country to take part in the protest at the work done at Hill Grove Farm. The stand-off at the pub - 200 yards from the road-block - is the latest incident between activists and locals annoyed at having their daily lives disrupted.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "We have arrested a total of nine men - two for obstruction, one for assault on police, one for affray, one for public order offences and four others for offences which were alleged to have happened at a previous demonstration at the cat farm last April. A woman has also been arrested for allegedly causing criminal damage today."

New Lads hide fears behind their beers

By NICK NUTTALL

PAUL GASCOIGNE, Liam Gallagher and other New Lads of the 1990s may be far wimpler than their roughish, beer-swilling, hedonistic images would suggest.

A sociologist will tell that "new laddism" - the bibles of which are magazines such as *Loaded*, *FFM* and *Maxim* - is really a cover for a growing subculture of men who feel impotent in the face of rapid economic and social upheavals.

Angus Bancroft, of Cardiff University, said: "The New Lad was supposed to be a tough, arrogant, sexy and self-reliant replacement for the effeminate New Man of the 1980s. He is supposed to enjoy football, drinking, is comfortable with soft porn. He is generally pleased with himself but dignified by ironic awareness of his clownish nature."

But Mr Bancroft will tell the British Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting on Thursday that the New Lad is really "a bit of a weed. He seems curiously out of his depth in the midst of the rapid changes affecting society at every level," he said.

Mr Bancroft, from the university's School of Social and Administrative Studies, said history was littered with examples of "new laddishness". "Gangs of young aristocratic men wandered the streets of Ancient Rome at night on



Gascoigne, left, and Gallagher: "vulnerable" New Lads



rampages of drink and violence," he said. "What is new is that these things were seen in the past as phases in a young man's life which he would grow out of. The New Lad is a broad shift in male behaviour across the social classes."

He said Gascoigne and Gallagher were perfect examples of "vulnerable man-child" figures unprepared to take responsibility for their actions.

Mr Bancroft said the Government and Tony Blair had to shoulder some responsibility for the cult of laddishness by encouraging emotional populism, which led to infantile behaviour in young adults, who carry it on into middle age.

"To understand laddishness I have put it in context with increased infantilism at all levels of British society, the search for instant satisfaction and the rejection of responsi-

bility, social or personal," he said. Men are also becoming marginalised by women with male unemployment exceeding female unemployment and girls beating boys at examinations.

"The emotional populism of the government and the media and touchy-feely Britain conspire to suggest that the 1990s is the women's decade. Men, especially young men, are being regarded as a problem," Mr Bancroft said. "It is not a triumph for feminism, because women do not have anything to gain if men increasingly retreat into a world which celebrates narcissism of the beer belly."

Mr Bancroft said New Lads should not be seen as a witty or ironic challenge to political correctness, as some have suggested. "It is an attempt to avoid the challenges of an evolving society," he said.

Squire's diaries of 200 years ago help weather scientists

By NICK NUTTALL

THE dusty diaries of a Rutland squire who lived more than 200 years ago will help to refine supercomputer weather models trying to predict the impact of global warming.

Professor Trevor Davies, of the University of East Anglia in Norwich, said yesterday: "We want to know if the variability and extreme weather of recent years is unusual or not. To do this we really need around 200 to 300 years of weather data, which is where the diaries come in." Official national weather records, which began in the 1860s in Britain, were too short.

Scientists have traced diaries and records by enthusiastic amateurs across Europe stretching back to about 1675. But the jewel is considered to be the diary of Thomas Barker, a landowner who lived at Lyndon Hall, Rutland.

John Kington, a visiting fellow at the university's climatic research unit who has spent several years researching the life and diaries of Squire Barker, brother-in-law of the naturalist Gilbert

White, said that Barker was interested in farming and bee keeping and wrote on theology. "But it is his weather diaries which are such rare and valuable records. He started out at about the age of 11 in the 1730s and continued until the 1790s."

The squire was meticulous, using barometers and thermometers to record pressure and temperature every morning and afternoon along with details of cloud formation, rainfall, wind speeds and other weather observations.

The Barker diaries chronicle the little ice age that covered Europe during the late 18th century, when winter temperatures averaged 3C (37F) and persisted from December to early April in some years.

Professor Davies said that such curious weather records were now helping researchers to discover whether past centuries were plagued with extreme weather or was relatively stable.

Ecstasy is suspected as boy dies near club

A BOY of 16 was found dead outside an all-night dance club yesterday after apparently taking Ecstasy.

The teenager, from Gateshead had been led to a bench outside the After Dark club in South Shields, South Tyneside, by bouncers after feeling unwell. He had been out with a group of friends.

Witnesses told police and ambulance staff that they believed he had taken Ecstasy. Another reveller saw the boy unconscious on the bench where he had been left earlier by doormen.

An ambulance was called at 7.30am but the boy was dead on arrival at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Detective Inspector William Sproates said: "It is a really terrible tragedy for a young lad to die in that way. We are waiting for toxicology reports to establish exactly what was in his body at the time. There was no alcohol on sale at the club, only water and soft drinks, but people have told us that his speech was slurred and he was at times becoming incoherent."

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Man sure to close on fair

IF Manchester City Council were to sell the club, it would be a deal worth scrutinising. The Department of Industry and Commerce has the final say on any acquisition of a public utility. The OFT is also investigating the sale. The OFT is a competition authority which is likely to object to the acquisition of Manchester United by BSkyB. Bremner writes. Officials also worry that, because Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, already owns a European football team, the sale will be concerned that he do whatever he likes at all," said a source from the Brussels competition directorate. Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, has been making an aggressive campaign against what he sees as

BRUSSELS SEES NO CHANCE

THE European Commission has no objection to the acquisition of Manchester United by BSkyB, Brussels writes. Officials also worry that, because Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, already owns a European football team, the sale will be concerned that he do whatever he likes at all," said a source from the Brussels competition directorate. Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, has been making an aggressive campaign against what he sees as

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Man Utd deal sure to attract close scrutiny on fair trading

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

IF Manchester United Football Club were bought by British Sky Broadcasting, the deal would be closely scrutinised by the Office of Fair Trading.

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that it would expect the OFT to examine any deal to ensure there were no implications that might infringe competition. It would be up to the OFT to look into any deal, and pass its recommendation to Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who has the final say on whether acquisitions are referred to the Monopoly and Mergers Commission for a formal investigation.

The OFT's normal criteria for investigating a deal are that it creates a player with a 25 per cent market share or that it involves companies with £70 million in assets worldwide. Both Manchester

United and BSkyB — a company in which News International, parent group of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake — easily cross the asset threshold.

Market share is a more difficult question. Manchester United, despite its pulling power, footballing record and profitability, is still only one of 20 clubs in the FA Premier League, each of which has one vote. With BSkyB it depends on how the market is defined. The company is dominant in the pay-television market but much less so in the television market overall.

However, the OFT will almost certainly want to look at the implications of a major force in pay-television sports rights taking over what is an influential, if only partial, owner of such rights.

A much larger issue of how television rights in the UK should be sold is due to come

to a head in January in the Restrictive Practices Court. One of the first things John Bridgeman did when taking over as Director-General of Fair Trading in 1995 was to refer to the court the Premier League's agreement with BSkyB and the BBC on the rights to broadcast matches.

The OFT argues that the deal, which runs until 2001, is a cartel that operates against the interests of individual clubs and the public because it is negotiated collectively. The case is expected to last for three or four months. If the Restrictive Practices Court rules against BSkyB's agreement with the Premier League, it has the power to strike out the deal and prevent any such collective agreement being entered into again. Television rights would then have to be negotiated on a club-by-club basis, with perhaps the home club owning the television rights to any fixture.

The League and BSkyB will argue that chaos could ensue, and that US sports leagues have specific exemption from anti-trust legislation.

Lawyers for BSkyB and Manchester United are convinced that no serious competition issues would be raised by a deal. All existing agreements would be honoured. Sky Sports would still show 60 live games a season with the obligation to show each club at least three times. The existing criteria for selecting the game to broadcast live would continue. The club's management would also remain in place, if they chose to.

Even if the deal were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, BSkyB would remain committed to arguing the case for approval, which ultimately rests with the DTI Secretary.

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Business, page 48



Andy Walsh, chairman of Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association, giving his view yesterday

Brand name set to make £100m

Adrian Lee reports on the massive business operation that adds up to the world's richest football club

MANCHESTER UNITED is the world's richest football club, making £1 million profit from every home game. This year, income is expected to exceed £100 million for the first time.

Much of it comes from gate receipts. The annual report for 1997 shows that fans paid £30 million to watch their team. The sale of shirts and souvenirs is worth £29 million a year to United, which receives another £12.6 million from television companies.

Shirt and other sponsorship brings in another £11 million and conference and catering at Old Trafford is worth £5.5 million. Programme sales alone are worth £1 million a year.

The 1997 balance sheet shows that Manchester United's income rose by 65 per cent on the previous year to £88 million, despite a wage bill of £22 million, which is easily the highest in the Premiership. The income of Newcastle United, the second biggest earner, is less than half that of the Manchester club.

The club's annual revenue is only slightly less than the combined income of two of Italy's leading clubs, Juventus and Inter Milan. Latest fig-

ures show the club bank account is also healthy, with cash reserves of £16.5 million and assets of £72.4 million.

Manchester United's success in outstripping its own players, such as Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes is a major factor. The purchases of the Dutch defender Jaap Stam for £10.6 million and the Aston

Villa forward Dwight Yorke for £12.6 million are not included in the latest accounts. The pre-tax profit made by Manchester United for the 1996-97 season (the most recent declared) was £27.5 million.

United's success is the clearest indicator of the growing gap between football's haves and have-nots. On a

single match day, the club generates more income than 22 of the 92 league clubs do in an entire season.

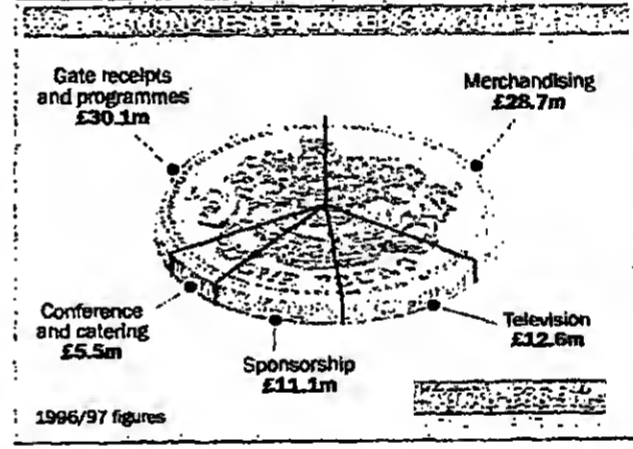
Manchester United first joined the stock market in 1991, when it was valued at £47 million. In July it opened a savings account for fans, which could make the club more than £100,000 a year.

Britannia will pay Manchester United 1 per cent of the total saved in the club's building society accounts. It is also building its own four-star hotel with more than 100 rooms, and has a museum.

The name of Manchester United is one of the world's most famous brands. Although most of the club's home games are 55,000 sell-outs, the majority of the team's three million British supporters have never been to Old Trafford.

City analysts predict that Manchester United will continue to grow as the capacity at Old Trafford is increased to 67,000. television revenue rises and it is able to charge shirt and pitch-hoarding sponsors more.

Despite the club's failure to win a trophy last year, Collins Stewart, the stockbroker, concludes: "Manchester United is a cash machine."



BRUSSELS SEES NO OBJECTION

THE European Union's competition authority is unlikely to object to the acquisition of Manchester United by BSkyB (Charles Bremner writes).

Officials said yesterday that, because Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, parent company of BSkyB, did not already own a European football team, they would not be concerned. He can't do that, we will look at this at all, said an official from the Brussels competition directorate.

closed practices and abuse of dominant position in the sports world, but, on the face of it, BSkyB's purchase of a single team would not come under these headings, officials said. "If he [Mr Murdoch] bought more than one club that would be different. The issue of control of broadcasting rights did not, at first sight, seem relevant."

The only ground on which the Commission might be called in would be if Manchester United had an annual turnover of more than £70 million, with one third of it coming from outside the United Kingdom. Again, at first glance, that did not seem to apply, the officials said.

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Half of Britain's shops are now open on Sundays

SHOPPING has become an accepted part of the British Sunday, with almost half of the country's stores opening and less than a quarter of shoppers opposed in principle to the practice, according to a new survey.

The study of 20 centres in England and Wales, for the consultants Healey and Baker, found that the number of shops that opened on Sunday had increased since last year, when only a third of Britain's shops did so. Mixed goods stores, such as department stores, continue to represent the highest percentage of shops that open on a Sunday. There has been a marked increase in food shops remaining open — up from 50 per cent last year to 72 per cent this year; and 60.1 per cent of sports and leisure stores open on Sundays, compared with 48 per cent in 1997.

Sales on a Sunday are not outstanding — they add up to about a third of those on

Audrey Magee and Ciaran Hughes report on a change in our way of life

Saturdays, the busiest day of trading.

The Sunday trading laws were relaxed in 1994, and Dr Yvonne Court, Head of Retail Research Services, says that Sunday trading "has become fully established in the British way of life and makes good sense. For many people, longer opening hours offer the convenience of being able to shop outside the peak times."

In the Irish Republic, the number of people paying more attention to Mammon than to God on a Sunday is worrying Church leaders. A

recent survey showed that 60 per cent of the Republic's Roman Catholics attended weekly Mass compared with 77 per cent four years ago.

Virtually every shop in Grafton Street, the main shopping street in Dublin, now opens on Sunday, and shopping centres on the outskirts of the capital are booming. For the shopping centre in Blanchardstown, Sunday is the busiest day of the week.

The Catholic bishops, spurred by a recent letter from the Pope calling on Christians to keep Sunday holy, will draw up an emergency plan at their conference next month to try to stem the tide.

The Most Rev Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, a west of Ireland diocese, recently said that a society that did not observe Sabbath was "a retrograde step on behalf of the producer/consumer society". The Archbishop said that it was "a form of slavery" for success to be "measured in



Shoppers in London on a Sunday. A survey found that few people disapprove of Sunday trading

terms of economics, productivity and possessions".

The number of Roman Catholics in England and Wales who attend Mass has also fallen.

The Catholic Church accepts that it must compete for worshippers with rival attractions. Priests have been en-

couraged to improve their preaching, in recognition of the wide choice of activities now available on Sundays.

The Church has also revived Mass on Saturday evenings and offered Sunday services with or without music, of differing durations and times.

Kieran Conry, a spokesman for the Catholic Church and a priest in Wandsworth, south London, said: "Habits are changing — there is a lot more to do on a Sunday and there has been a gradual decline in Mass-going. Nobody can say if that is tied to shopping, but the nature of Sunday is being destroyed. Soon it will be a

working day."

In Ireland, trade unions and some politicians are also worried about the trend. Ireland has no laws governing Sunday opening hours. In Britain, large supermarkets can open for a maximum of six hours on Sunday. In Ireland, the shopping day has no legal end.

ChildLine hopes to raise over £500,000 from a pin badge campaign launched today to draw attention to the problems of bullying and bring them into the open. A new leaflet to guide parents, pupils and teachers on how to recognise and cope with bullying, is also to be introduced.

Children face rise in school bullying

By Victoria Fletcher

A MASSIVE increase in the number of children complaining of bullying has taken it ahead of physical and mental abuse from adults as the main trauma they face.

Calls to ChildLine about school bullies rose by 40 per cent last year, with ChildLine helping 14,300 bullied children last year, many of whom said they had been driven close to suicide.

The escalating scale of the problem has led the charity to launch a campaign on the issue, to increase awareness and raise funds to help more children. At present, the charity answers only 3,300 calls of the 10,000 they receive daily because of restricted resources.

ChildLine hopes to raise over £500,000 from a pin badge campaign launched today to draw attention to the problems of bullying and bring them into the open. A new leaflet to guide parents, pupils and teachers on how to recognise and cope with bullying, is also to be introduced.

St Andrews to take a swing at golf vandals

By Robin Young

AFTER 250 years' serene pursuit of golfing excellence, administrators at the world's best-known course have been obliged to hire round-the-clock security guards to control vandals.

The Fife course at St Andrews is the most hallowed 6,566 yards in golfing history, but it has been anything but sacred to night-time intruders who have burned benches, torn up flags and lit barbecues in the bunkers.

By day St Andrews is a Mecca for lovers of the game from all over the world. Golf pilgrims queue for precious tee-times on the links, and when it is finally their turn to play, many spend more time posing for pictures by the Swilken Burn and the Road Hole than they do lining up their shots. After their £100 round on the Fife course, most visitors buy a St Andrews sweater and bonnet to take home with them.

Now it is feared the green fees at the course will be forced even higher, to help pay for the security guards who will be patrolling the strip alongside the Fife coast. St Andrews's five other courses — the New, Eden,

Jubilee, Straithyrum and Balgove — have also suffered from night-time vandals, so now guards will come on duty when the daytime rangers sign off.

The vandalism has been blamed by some on students at St Andrews University, although this is strenuously denied by the University Students' Association which says there is no evidence to implicate the students.

No one was available from the St Andrews Links management committee yesterday for comment but a spokeswoman for St Andrews University said any students found misbehaving would be dealt with by its disciplinary policy. The Links management committee will be reviewing green fees later this month and an increase is expected because the night guards will cost thousands of pounds a year to employ.

Yesterday one golfer, who did not want to be named, said: "If an increase in fees is linked to this vandalism then I am sure a lot of golfers would see that as unfair. It's a shame that somewhere like St Andrews has to resort to security like this."



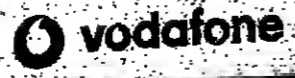
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All aboard the virtual school bus



Coreen King, a parent at Wheatfields Junior School in St Albans, acts as a "driver" in the virtual bus scheme. Pupils are kept in line by the volunteer "conductor" bringing up the rear.

CHILDREN will take part today in a simple but groundbreaking attempt to prevent traffic congestion caused by the school run. The "virtual bus" is seen by ministers as the cheap and effective way of persuading parents to let their children walk to school.

Pupils in St Albans, Hertfordshire, will stand at a series of "bus stops", waiting for a trained volunteer to escort them to school.

The virtual bus scheme comes complete with a "conductor" who supervises the pupils during their half-mile walk to school and a "driver", who wheels a trolley carrying satchels, lunch boxes and gym bags. Pupils even get a timetable of the free service.

Parents chaperoning their children to school are responsible for about one in five morning peak-time car journeys. Ministers worried about the reluctance of parents to allow their children to walk to school have told local councils that priority must be given to

Arthur Leathley reports on a simple scheme to keep pupils safe and reduce morning traffic congestion

providing safe routes for cycling and walking.

The St Albans scheme, believed to be the first formal project of its kind, is centred on Wheatfields Junior School in the north of the city. Pupils aged between 5 and 10 will receive a loyalty card, allowing them to receive free items from the school stationery shop if they use the service regularly.

Only 59 per cent of children aged 5 to 10 currently walk to school, compared with 72 per cent in the mid-1970s.

Each volunteer escort will undergo police checks and will take up to five pupils. The school plans to extend the scheme to a further six routes later this month.

The scheme has been de-

vised by Mouchel Consulting, a civil engineering company hired by Hertfordshire County Council to set up safer routes for pupils. Although the scheme being tried this week involves only a half-mile walk, there are plans to introduce longer routes later.

Julia Moreland, from Mouchel, said: "Like every other school, congestion is a problem at Wheatfields and this is a simple way of ensuring that children get to school safely. They all wear fluorescent vests and it has the advantage that they also learn about road sense as well."

To keep some of the older pupils interested in being escorted to school, an end-of-term "green disco" is being



Posters will encourage pupils to use the "bus"

staged for those who join the virtual bus project or cycle and walk to school.

A successful trial scheme was run at the school in June and other local authorities have approached organisers to find out the best way of setting up the virtual bus scheme.

Daily car run can be bad for child's health

By IAN MURRAY, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN who are driven to school risk growing up with heart disease and brittle bones, according to a report published today.

Parents may think it is safer to drop their children off rather than let them walk, it says, but they are establishing a behaviour pattern that could undermine their health in later years.

The report, by researchers at the Institute of Child Health, part of The Hospital for Children, Great Ormond Street, is based on an analysis of published data on school travel during the past 20 years. It aims to shock parents into realising the harm they are doing their children with the daily school run.

Most primary schoolchildren still walk to school but the proportion has fallen from 72 per cent in the mid-1970s to 59 per cent today. The main factors influencing the decline appear to be rising car ownership and parents' fears of molestation, abduction and traffic accidents.

At present 82 per cent of five to ten-year-olds from households without cars walk to school compared with 52 per

cent of those in households with two or more cars.

The daily walk to school represents 41 per cent of the average distance walked by all children annually, making it a vital component of physical activity at a time when figures show rising obesity among British children.

The patterns of adult physical activity are known to be established in childhood. Participation in sports declines steeply when children leave school, but those who are physically active are likely to persist with sports and other exercise into adult life. Adults who still participate in sports at 36 are likely to be those who were good at games at school.

Physical exercise in adulthood reduces illness and premature death from heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and osteoporosis. It also reduces mental health disorders.

According to Ian Roberts, director of child health monitoring at the institute, children are driven around more because the physical environment has become so hostile. "Children are also getting more miserable," he said. "We

are seeing a whole host of behavioural problems, and while that's not necessarily linked to being cooped up, it cannot help."

He said the trend for adults to take less exercise was already increasing the amount of ill health in older people. "The present generation of children, progressively losing the habit of walking to school, will continue the trend," he said. "And as more parents acquire cars, more children will be driven."

Ben Plowden, director of the Pedestrians' Association, the pressure group that commissioned the report, said: "Rising car ownership, time pressures and fears about paedophiles and traffic make the school run seem unavoidable for many parents. The resulting air pollution and traffic damage the health of children who do still walk to school. Now it looks like the school run may be bad for the health of the children being driven, let alone their future health as adults."

The School Run - Blessing or Blight? The Pedestrians' Association, 126 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4JQ; £15

Standards are still perilously low, says pupil study

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

RESEARCH has shown that standards in many English schools are "perilously low" and pupils who struggle in primary school continue to fail throughout their education.

Teachers are blamed in the report, to be published today, for not helping pupils who find schoolwork difficult. The research also shows that the social background of children does not influence their ability.

The research, carried out for the Social Market Foundation, analysed test scores of 2.4 million pupils aged seven to 16 in more than 23,000 schools. The author of the report, John Marks, a former government policy adviser, said: "At present rates of improvement - where they exist - it will take many years before the actual standards achieved are equal to the expected standards. The spread between the standards of different schools of the same type remains very large - shows little sign of decreasing and may even be increasing for some of the subjects studied."

The research showed that pupils who struggled with learning at an early age were not helped through their difficulties by teachers, and therefore continued to slip behind their classmates over the following years. In some cases, pupils could fall up to six academic years behind those of the same age in neighbouring schools. Overall, 98 per cent of schools failed to achieve the national target for English for their 14-year-old pupils.

In Barnsley there was up to 3½ years' difference between pupils from separate schools who took English and mathematics tests. In some other schools, more than 30 per cent of pupils failed all their GCSEs.

Last weekend a survey by education researchers from Reading University showed that two thirds of secondary schools did not know how to teach literacy properly and wanted clearer government advice on how to help low achievers to improve for national curriculum tests.

Two weeks ago GCSE results suggested that poor performers were consistently ignored by teachers in favour of high-flying pupils, who could alter the school's league table positions. In mathematics, the number of pupils who did not even achieve a result at GCSE had doubled since 1997. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the body that oversees national curriculum tests, has promised a full review of the situation faced by low achievers for next year.

No IQCs

THE TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

Mother hospital cancer 'fa'

A MOTHER who has been in hospital for a long time because of a condition called cancer has been told that she should not worry about her child's health.



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Twinning plan may be adopted by the UN

By DANIEL MCGRODY

UNITED NATIONS officials are considering whether a Gloucestershire school's scheme to help children abroad should be adopted by governments internationally.

The scheme, devised by the Archway comprehensive in Stroud, twins a British school with one of similar size abroad to work on specific projects. It has been described by one senior UN official as "so simple it is embarrassing that we haven't thought of it before".

The UN's interest in the scheme comes at a time when it is seeking ways to raise money as governments cut back on aid programmes. Senior UN officials have invited pupils from Archway to describe their scheme in detail.

It was inspired by Diana, Princess of Wales's last trip to Bosnia, when she promised to help Mirzeta Gabelic, a 16-year-old who lost a leg when she stepped on a landmine. The Princess died before she could carry out her promise and the school sent one of its pupils to Sarajevo to see what practical help it could offer Mirzeta and her family.

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No place for Carman in QCs' million-a-year club

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FIFTEEN Queen's Counsel who reputedly earn £1 million a year are named this week in a survey of earnings at the Bar.

The top-grossing QCs include six who have joined the million-a-year club since last year, according to the survey in the 1998 *Chambers' Guide to the Legal Profession*. But gone from the list is George Carman, the libel silk who was among the top earners when the survey was first published last year.

The six barristers new to the list this year, who are said by colleagues and barristers' clerks to be earning £1 million before overheads and expenses, are: Terence Etherton, Michael Flesch, David Oliver, Jules Sher, Nicholas Stadlen and Geoffrey Vos.

Out of the "club", with Mr Carman, are: Andrew Park, who since last year has been appointed a High Court judge, Peter Scott, and Michael Beloff, now President of Trinity College, Oxford, and busy on a wide range of activities as

well as his practice. Mr Carman was the only QC in the list last year who did not come from the tax, commercial or chancery Bar. He has not recently had a major libel action, such as the Jonathan Aitken case, that has gone all the way to trial.

The survey is published by Chambers & Partners as part of a package of research in its directory of 1,000 law firms and barristers. Reena SenGupta, the guide's editor, said: "Barristers' earnings one year may be very different the next: they are not set in stone. You can get caught up in one case that lasts for months, for instance, or a big case can settle."

The income of many top-earning solicitors was much more certain, she said. In contrast, barristers were far more vulnerable to the vagaries of fortune. Nonetheless, there could more than 15 QCs in the million-a-year club: those whose earnings were on the borderline were excluded from the list and some clerks

TOP EARNERS

The QCs who are in the million-a-year club:

- Graham Aaronson
- Michael Burton
- Christopher Carr
- Terence Etherton
- Michael Flesch
- John Gardiner
- Elizabeth Gloster
- David Goldberg
- Anthony Grabiner
- David Oliver
- Gordon Pollock
- Jules Sher
- Nicholas Stadlen
- Jonathan Sumption
- Geoffrey Vos



Pollock: number one "star" at the Bar

the QCs' top-quality work. "These fees represent a fraction of the millions that the QCs succeed in saving for their clients in many of these cases and the company clients that pay them regard them as value for money," Ms SenGupta said.

The guide, which has its research audited by the British Market Research Bureau, reveals the QCs regarded by other lawyers and clients as the best performers in their fields. It also has a list of the top ten "stars" at the Bar — QCs rated highly across several fields of law, rather than one or two, by the solicitors who instruct them.

Top of the list is Gordon Pollock, who appears in nine specialist lists. His practice is said to be "unmatched". He is followed by Jonathan Sumption in eight lists. Anthony Grabiner, in third place, is on only five lists but the quality of his practice is said to be "outstanding". Six of the top ten are in the million-a-year club.

House of Lords is due to report soon on how curbs may be imposed on top-earning legal aid QCs.

Ms SenGupta said that the pre-tax figures, which had to be reduced by 20 per cent to take account of overheads, were not out of line with top earnings in banking, industry and commerce. They also reflected the fact that clients were prepared to pay more for

were coy about their barristers' earnings.

"There is a nervousness about being included because you might put off clients, and also you can also only fall downwards," Ms SenGupta said.

The figures come as the Bar struggles to rid itself of a "fat cat" image, reinforced in recent months by comments of government ministers. The



Elizabeth Gloster, the only woman who is a member of the million-a-year club

Letters, page 21

Mother sues hospital over cancer 'failure'

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A MOTHER who has secondary breast cancer is taking legal action against Guy's hospital after doctors allegedly failed to diagnose her condition for three years.

Beth Wagstaff, 39, who set up the breast cancer charity The Lavender Trust in memory of her close friend Ruth Picardie, the journalist who died a year ago of breast cancer, has issued a medical negligence claim against Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust.

Ms Wagstaff, who lives in Hereford with her husband, Jon, and their three children, said: "I'm not going to be

around to give my children the lifestyle and support that a mother normally gives her children. The hospital compensation can't bring me back, but it certainly can help."

Ms Wagstaff says she first attended Guy's hospital in 1992 with a small lump in her breast. But it was not until Christmas 1994 that she was given a mammogram and discovered that she had breast cancer.

She was treated with chemotherapy for six months, followed by more than 50 doses of radiotherapy. But at the beginning of 1997 she discovered a dry patch of skin on her breast and a biopsy revealed the cancer had returned and spread to her bones. She had a mastectomy.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for the trust said: "We have the greatest sympathy for Beth and her family. Like her, we want to resolve this case as soon as possible. The lawyers are negotiating at the moment."

Ms Wagstaff will be interviewed on the programme *Too Young For Death*, scheduled to be shown on Channel 4 on October 14.



Wagstaff: says Guy's misdiagnosed cancer

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WOULD YOU HIRE THIS WOMAN?

Males of combat age segregated by Serbs

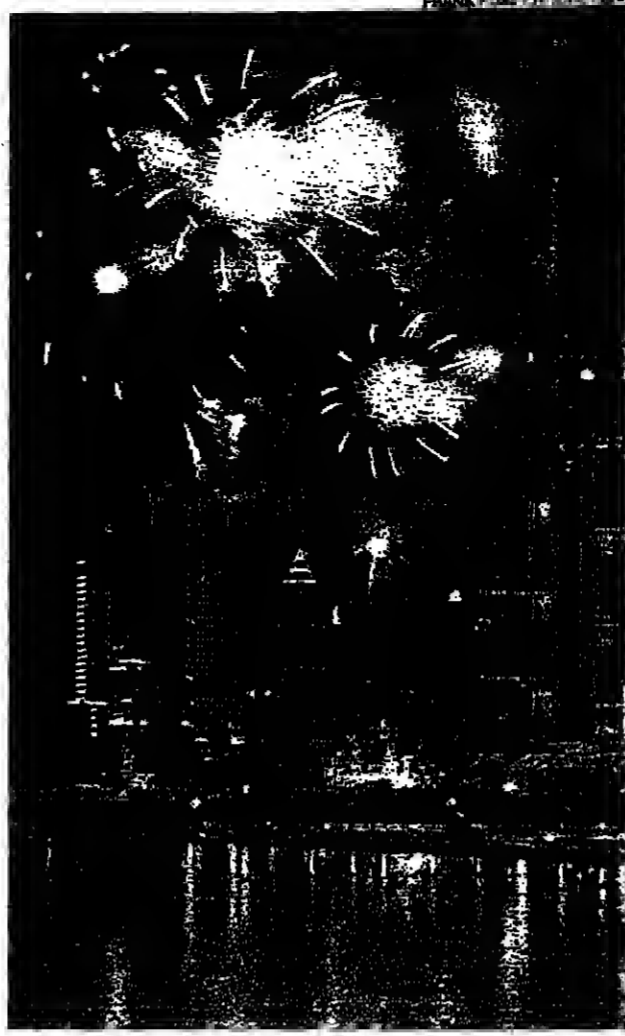
THE Serbian victory has brought even the gravediggers of Ponorac to their knees. The four Albanian men scratched away at the soil with their shovels, hunched unnaturally beneath a low stone wall. The reason for their fear was obvious: they appeared to be the only men of potential combat age visible in the Kosovo town seized by the Serbs after a four-day operation 37 miles southwest of Pristina. A short distance beyond the wall was the schoolhouse where Serb police and soldiers had locked up hundreds of males in the 15 to 55 age bracket. The diggers could not talk to us or we to them. We raised our palms in question through the car window. The answer from among the small cluster of graves was unmistakable — the index fingers pointed frantically at the hole in the ground, then the squeezing of imaginary triggers. Even by the standards of the past few weeks, the Serb offensive in this area has been disproportionate in the ex-

Fears are growing for the safety of ethnic Albanian captives and refugees in Kosovo, reports Anthony Loyd from Ponorac



treme. Starting on Wednesday, Serb artillery hit villages north and west of Orahovac, pushing columns of refugees into the mountain villages above Ponorac. By Thursday, tanks and mortars added their fire, sending an even larger mass of people out of burning homes over the ridgelines into the valley round Ponorac. On Friday, the bombardment seemed to peak as it spilled upon the villages surrounding Ponorac. Of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which the offensive was designed to smash, there was little sign. By noon on Friday most of the refugee columns gave up running. Surrounded by advancing Serb troops, exhausted and terrified, they huddled together in groups — some several thousand strong,

some just a few dozen — in forests and fields. "The police came with their guns drawn," said Ismail Morina, 68, who was part of a 2,500-strong column caught at the bottom of a valley. "They were very aggressive, sticking the guns in our ribs and faces. We were forced to sit down surrounded. There were six tanks above us and eight tanks at the end of the valley. A police commander arrived and told all the men to get up and move to the left. They came to me and asked how old I was. I said 70. After about an hour, the police told the old men, women and children to go home. But a group of 100 to 125 men aged between 15 and 55 remained behind us." Among these segregated males were nine members of Mr Morina's family, including his son and grandson. At nightfall he saw Serb lorries take the prisoners away. The scenario was completed with each group of refugees. Though Ponorac itself was untouched by the shelling, the arrival of the police and army together with hundreds of male captives frightened most refugees into further flight. On Saturday they baked in the sun, on Sunday they were drenched in rain. "The Serbs have burnt our homes, taken our vehicles, our possessions and now our men," an elderly Albanian said as he stood among 40 women and children. "We have been on the road for three days with nothing to eat." The US Assistant Secretary of State for human rights, John Shattuck, yesterday urged the West to press President Milosevic for an immediate ceasefire. Belgrade: Washington has announced another large increase in its aid spending in Kosovo, putting together a £15 million food delivery.



Frankfurt puts on a firework display at the weekend as part of its Skyscraper Festival

Rivals exploit fears of threat from the East

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Bavaria, land of cowbells, car designers and computer whizz kids, elects a new parliament on Sunday. The Christian Social Union (CSU) is the dominant force and will surely hold on to power, but the far-right Republicans are scratching away on the outer fringe. As much as 8 per cent of the vote could go to this ultra-nationalist party as it mops up Euro-dissidents and xenophobes. The Bavarian election matters to Helmut Kohl, if the CSU loses voters, the result will be blamed on the Chancellor in Bonn rather than Edmund Stoiber, the state premier. To fend off the challenge from the right, the CSU has become stridently tough on crime and immigration. The election campaign is more than the usual theatre in the round. It is beginning to close down German options, reduce its role as the self-appointed advocate of swift Central European entry to the EU. The tone was obvious at an election rally when leading Social Democrat Rudolf Scharping insisted that foreign labourers should be paid the same as Germans on Berlin building sites. That is a way of saying: "Keep East Europeans off the jobs market."

Interior Minister, has at least grasped the geography. He has been urging Poles to close their eastern frontier with Ukraine lest the Ukrainians tread westwards. That too might become a condition of Polish entry. Eastward enlargement is not particularly popular among Germans and so politicians on the populist trail exploit fears rather than waste time trying to sell the idea of a bigger Europe.

The last fortnight has shown that Germany really does not have a Russia policy. It does business, it buys gas, it backs President Yeltsin. Now Mr Yeltsin is on the ropes, there is no business to be done. 60,000 German jobs may be lost as a result of the Russian crisis, according to the tabloid press, and no government with which to conduct diplomacy.

Other countries are in a similar position, having failed to understand that policy in Russia bounces like a billiard ball from cushion to cushion. But Germany's fundamental national interest, obscured by the elections, is to put up a firebreak between the crumbling of post-communist Russia and the young democracies of Central Europe. Only rapid EU entry can achieve this. Sadly, the German political class has chosen this critical moment to lose concentration.

Berlin police seize spy scandal files

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN police have searched a Berlin publisher's offices for the manuscript of a former top spy whose memoirs reveal that the counter-espionage service was infiltrated by Nazis, chaotically managed and sex obsessed. Hans Joachim Tiedge was chief of West German counter-espionage until he defected to East Berlin in 1985. When the East German state collapsed, he fled to Moscow where he now lives, protected by the Russian security services. His memoirs, *The Defector*, have been printed and stored in Austria to keep them out of the hands of the German police. The police raid on the publishing house, Das Neue Berlin, last Monday netted galleyproofs and a version on computer disk.

The prosecutor's office may take out an injunction against the book if it finds sufficient evidence that Herr Tiedge has violated German secrecy rules. He faces outstanding treason charges. Among the book's revelations are claims that a Soviet agent had an affair with the wife of a minister in the Hesse state government; a German agent triggered an alarm in counter-espionage headquarters in Cologne while making love to a colleague on his desk; and that the service hired former Nazis and sheltered them well into the 1960s. One, Erich Wenger — formerly a Gestapo representative in Paris — used to hide in the office when Allied representatives visited, lest he be recognised.

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THE TIMES MONDAY

Russian ways of

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EU backs reform rec

THE European Commission has approved a package of reforms to the EU's decision-making process. The package includes measures to speed up the decision-making process, to make it more transparent and to give member states more say in the Council of Ministers. The reforms are expected to be implemented by the end of 1999.

ALAN CLARK FORUM

Alan Clark, the Tory MP and author of *The Tories: A Party in Crisis*, will be seen at the Times Forum on Monday, 14th September 1998, at 7.30pm. The forum will be held at the Grosvenor Gardens Hotel, London W1A 3AX. Tickets are £15.00. For more information, call 020 7735 7000.

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صحة من الأهل

Russians relearn ways of austerity

LIKE passengers on the Titanic moments after the collision with an iceberg, Muscovites have reacted with a mixture of panic and bravado to the looming disaster facing their city.

As the flagship of Russia's reforms begins sinking in a sea of inflation and currency devaluation, some dozens are frantically scrambling for lifeboats while others are opting to have one last dance in the ballroom or order a final round of drinks at the bar.

Three weeks into the crisis caused by the fall of the rouble and the collapse of the banking sector, it is now dawning on even the most optimistic Russians that the country faces years of hardship before it can hope to turn its economy around.

As banks and businesses continue to lay off thousands of staff and shoppers hoard staple goods to see them through the winter, the capital is heading back to a future reminiscent of Soviet days. The first casualties have been the luxury imported items which during Moscow's glitzy heyday over the past four years were vital status symbols for the new rich.

Today expensive shops stand empty, their foreign designer clothes beyond the means of all but a tiny minority rich enough to sit out

Moscow's luxury liner has been exposed as a ship of fools, Richard Beeston writes

the disaster. Similarly, sales of foreign cars, particularly the Jeeps and Mercedes favoured by "new Russian" businessmen, have all but stopped. In their place the Lada, the boxy but durable saloon, has made an impressive comeback.

Newspapers, once full of gossip, today provide handy tips on how to cope with the new realities of life. Last week readers were told which foodstuffs were best to store — sugar, pasta, oats and salt. There was also advice on how to retrieve money frozen in bank accounts, whether or not to buy gold, and Soviet-era survival tips on how to make the best use of old socks, orange rinds and newspapers. Not everyone is gloomy, however. Over the weekend Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor, threw his annual city birthday party and even hosted an athletics competition, which attracted international stars.

Although the city can ill

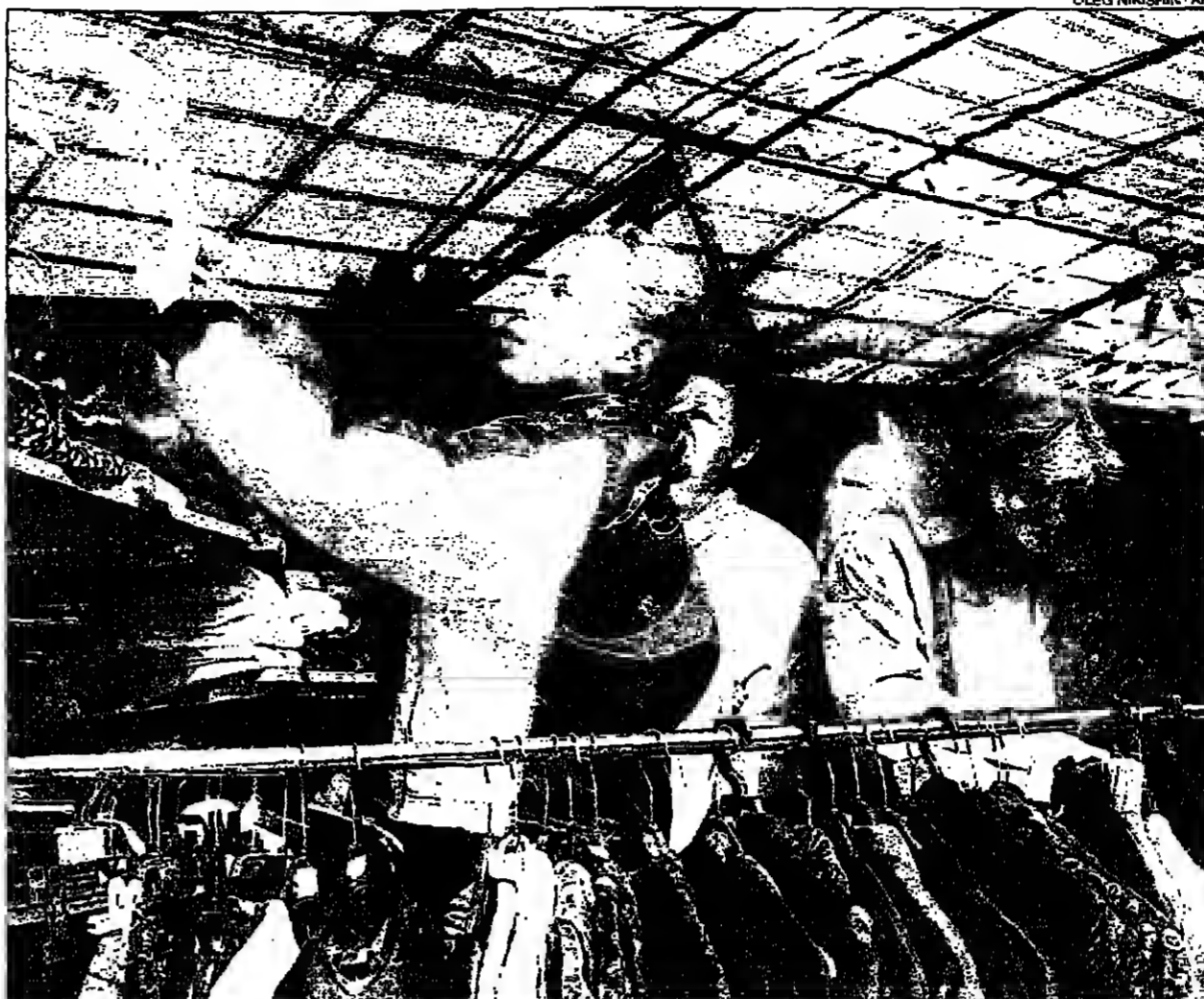
afford to squander millions of pounds on parades and athletics sponsorship, the Mayor's beaming face and encouraging words did help to steady the city's nerves.

By far the stiffest upper lip in Moscow belongs to Aliona Doleyskaya, the stylish editor of the new Russian *Vogue*, which launched its first edition just as the crisis was unfolding last month.

The *Kommersant* newspaper said: "The Russian edition of *Vogue* hit the newsstands the day the Kiriyenko government was fired and the entire middle class went to the dogs... The life serviced by glossy lifestyle magazines has deflated and is dissolving right before our eyes."

Although the magazine cancelled a planned party for top foreign fashion designers and supermodels, it went ahead with a more modest bash. "Enjoy it while you can," said a Russian photographer. "This is the last party we are going to see like this in a very long time."

Bank write-off, page 48



Clothes shoppers hurry to offload their increasingly worthless roubles at the All-Russia Exhibition Centre in Moscow at the weekend. Imported luxury goods are expected to be the first victims of the economic crisis

Golden mosaic crumbles in winds

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

NEARLY a year after the Umbrian earthquake which badly damaged the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi, strong winds and heavy rain have brought down part of a world-renowned golden mosaic on the facade of the cathedral at Orvieto.

The area has been cordoned off amid fears that other sections may also collapse.

Experts said it appeared that the spectacular mosaic, depicting the Coronation of the Virgin Mary, had been weakened by last September's earthquake, but the damage had gone unnoticed. It had remained precariously in place until this weekend's bad weather, which marked the end of a scorchingly hot summer in Italy. Fragments fell near some tourists, but no one was hurt.

EU backs mild reform recipe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN SALZBURG

THE European Union yesterday distanced itself from the American-backed recipe for all-out market reform in Russia and urged Moscow to forge a European-style welfare state as the surest solution to its economic and political woes.

The EU foreign ministers came up with their Russian formula at a session in Salzburg, Austria, that was coloured by concern over Europe's ability to run an effective common foreign policy and by some annoyance with the US. The absence on holiday of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, from an important EU council was seen by some continental ministers as a symptom of continuing British lack of EU spirit.

Joyce Quigley, the newly appointed Europe Minister, occupied Mr Cook's seat. Europe wanted Russia to adopt the 1990s model of European economy rather than unfettered capitalism promoted by the Americans, said Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister. "You cannot force a market

economy onto them when it took two centuries to take root with us," he said.

The EU's new emphasis on gentler Russian reforms reflects a growing fear that the present crisis could lead to social unrest. In a brief statement that took a week to draft, the 15 governments called on Moscow to rule out a return to a Soviet-style command economy in favour of "structural reforms in order to establish a social market economy".

America was also the butt of ministerial attacks after Christopher Hill, Washington's special envoy for the crisis in Kosovo, attacked the EU last week for what he said was indifference to the Balkans while they "toasted themselves" on creating a United Europe.

In a furious riposte, Klaus Kinkel, the German minister, said: "It is not the role of a US Ambassador to express himself in such a cynical and disdainful way." The EU was doing a lot for Kosovo, ministers insisted, and there was now a glimmer of hope for a settlement there.

ALAN CLARK FORUM



Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 16, 1998.

The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister. The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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Clintons return to hostile Democrat reception

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton returned from Russia and Ireland yesterday to face the worsening crisis over his presidency, as more leading Democrats deserted his cause and Washington waited tensely for the impeachment report from Kenneth Starr, the prosecutor.

A stunned and panicky White House is bracing itself for the report on Mr Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky, which could arrive in Congress this week, and which is set to be even more sexually explicit and legally perilous than his supporters had feared.

In Ms Lewinsky's final two hours of testimony on August 26, Mr Starr asked such detailed and intimate questions that he arranged for all lawyers and stenographers in the room to be women, according to *Time* magazine. In a further unexpected blow this weekend, Parris Glendening, the Democratic Governor of Maryland, pointedly distanced himself from Mr Clinton by cancelling a fundraising event with the President which would have given him crucial cash for his difficult re-election fight.

The White House had counted Mr Glendening as one of the President's most vocal defenders, but was rebuffed when it tried to persuade him to go ahead with the event. Even in strongly Democratic Maryland, the Governor's private polls show public support for Mr Clinton withering, according to *The Washington Post*.

The Starr report on Mr Clinton's affair with the former White House trainee, which will provide the formal basis for impeachment hearings or pressure for Mr Clinton's resignation, could be delivered to Congress as early as this week, according to *Newsweek*. Six of Mr Starr's prosecutors are racing to complete the 300-page manuscript. He has also roped in the well-known Christian author and legal scholar, Stephen Bates, described as a "genuinely moral conservative" by colleagues, to bolster the team.

Waiting for the report, which will determine the

future of the Clinton presidency, has sent Washington into a fever. Republicans have accused the White House of planning a "glass-house" counter-attack, "outing" Republican sexual scandals in retaliation. This weekend Dan Burton, a Republican moralist, who called Mr Clinton "a scumbag" just months ago, was forced to admit he had fathered an illegitimate son during his marriage.

Yesterday the capital was awash with rumours of the report's details, from stories that Mr Clinton had a sexual affair with another trainee, to tales that he had groped a woman in the back seat of the presidential limousine.

On Capitol Hill, party leaders were trying to calm the fever, urging members to wait until they could consider the facts before calling for Mr Clinton's resignation or impeachment. Asked whether he expected the US to have President Clinton or President Gore in a year's time, Trent Lott, the Senate leader, said carefully: "It depends what is in the Starr report."

This week Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, will hold an unprecedented meeting with Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, to decide who will see the most explicit parts. But privately aides admit there is no chance of keeping the sexual details secret behind a "firewall".

Democrats, who had hopes just months ago of reclaiming the House of Representatives, are now fearing a rout in the November elections. They are terrified that Republicans will increase their majority in the 100-seat Senate to 60.

The desperate and demoralised "spinners" in the White House have reverted to the tactic of "prebuttals" which they used in last year's campaign finance controversies — leaking sensitive information to try to control the light in which it is presented. In recent days they have revealed that the relationship was briefer and more sporadic than widely assumed — just half a dozen encounters, with a final tryst in February 1997.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



The Clintons are met by Buddy on arriving home, but loyal friends are scarce

Doomed jet's last turn

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

INVESTIGATORS are working on a computer simulation of the last six minutes of Swissair Flight 111 before it crashed into the sea off Nova Scotia.

It emerged yesterday that Urs Zimmermann, the Swissair pilot, had flown a complex figure of eight over the water and nearby fishing villages at about 10,000ft. He tried in vain to dump fuel over the water because he believed his aircraft was still too heavy to land at Halifax International airport, which was less than ten minutes away.

Residents of Peggy's Cove and fishing villages around St Margaret's Bay have been telling reporters and police for the past four days that they had seen the aircraft pass over their homes and around the bay, not in a straight line out at sea. Investigators will determine whether the pilot's figure-of-eight manoeuvre may have lost precious time and contributed to the crash.

Investigators also revealed the final moments of the pilot's conversation at 10.24pm local time. Zimmermann radioed the air traffic control tower in Halifax: "We are declaring an emergency at 01.24." Up until then he had only declared a



A Swissair pilot demonstrates a training exercise at the weekend to simulate smoke in a plane cockpit

lower-level indication of trouble aboard the aircraft, a "pan pan pan", which is one level below the well-known mayday signal which the pilot never sent out.

Zimmermann continued: "We are starting 'vent now', we have to land immediately." The radio communication suddenly went silent and the plane crashed six minutes later, possibly as it was still turning in a sharp loop to dump fuel. Investigators hope the black-box recorders will determine what happened after the radio and radar signals were broken off.

Over the weekend family members and friends of the victims arrived at Peggy's Cove. Many of them placed wreaths at the base of the lighthouse which attracts thousands of tourists every summer. Others threw flowers into the ocean as they wept openly or filled jars with seawater.

Meanwhile, another 200 Canadian soldiers were brought in, bringing to more than 500 the number of military personnel patrolling the coastline all along St Margaret's Bay, gathering pieces of the aircraft and part of his man bodies which continue to wash up on the shore.

Ultra Deep



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سكزا من الأهل

Iran threatens Afghan border

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

IRAN moved 70,000 Revolutionary Guards close to the Afghan border yesterday in a tacit threat to invade. Although Tehran denied any hostile intention, the manoeuvres sent a message that it is ready to defend hundreds of thousands of Shia Muslims fighting for their lives against the extremist Taliban militia.

State-run Tehran radio warned that Iran had the right under international law to take all necessary action against Taliban over the disappearance of ten Iranian diplomats and a journalist — probably killed by Taliban when it seized the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif a month ago. The Iranian Consulate was ransacked and bodies lay in the sun for days.

Taliban gave a warning of catastrophe if Iran invaded: "If war is imposed on us it will have a domino effect that would turn the entire region into a fireball." The militia is reported to have armed civilians along the border with

Iran to meet any incursion by Revolutionary Guards — an almost meaningless gesture of resistance to superior forces.

Any military operation by Iran would doubtless expose Taliban's lack of military prowess, command structure or organisation. It is a ragtag army that has captured 90 per cent of the country mostly by bribing enemy commanders.

Thousands of Russian forces are positioned along the northern Afghan border in Tajikistan, ready to resist any border crossing. The rise of the fanatical Islamic army threatens to destabilise a wide region, and has drawn expressions of alarm from Turkey to



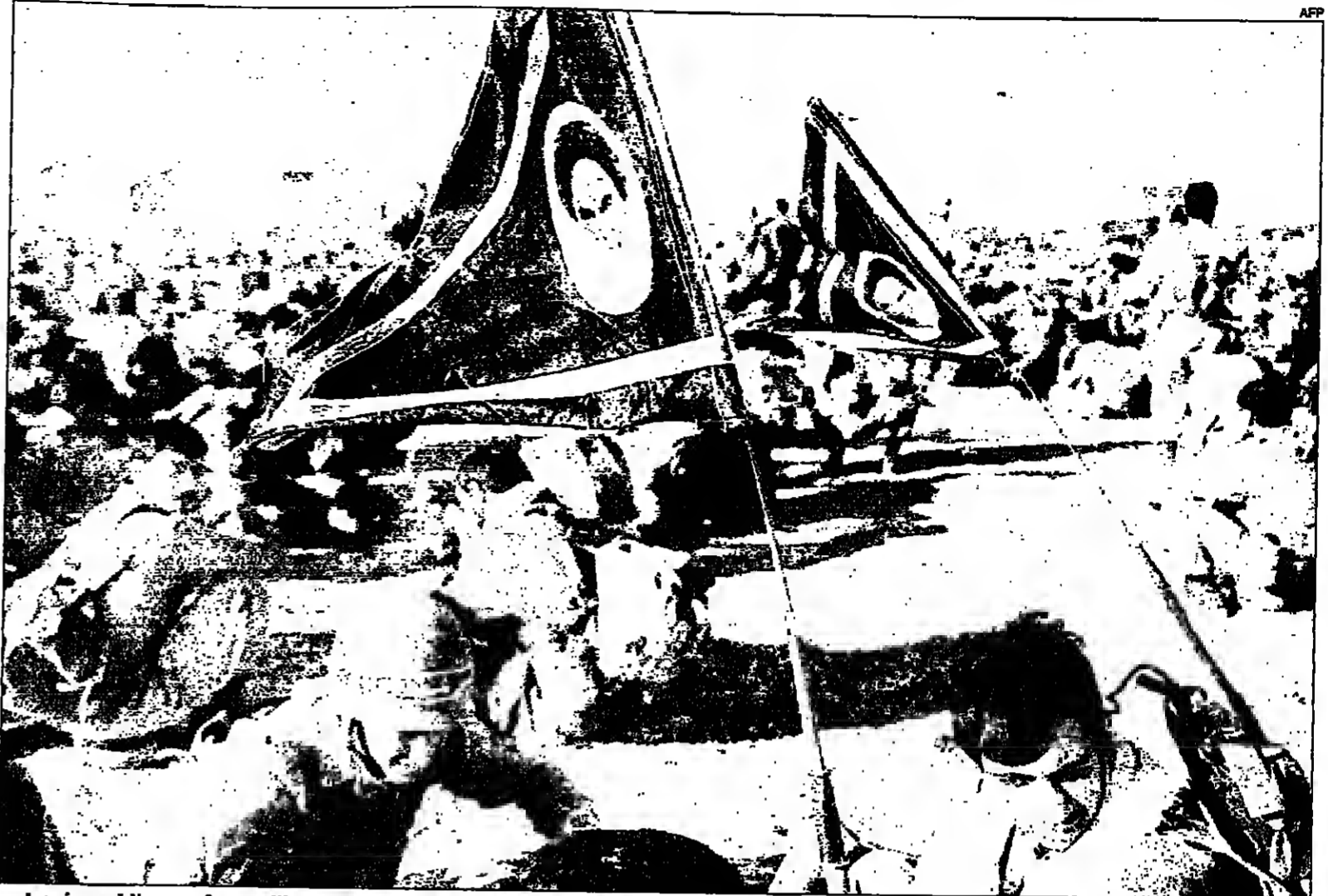
India. China is also worried about unrest among its Muslim population in the west.

Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, pledged "no confrontation with Taliban" — a statement that cannot be regarded as the final word as regional tensions rise and Shias in Afghanistan face slaughter.

Amnesty International said thousands of civilians from the Hazara ethnic group were massacred by Taliban after it captured Mazar-i-Sharif. The slaughter has added to fears for Shias besieged in Bamian. They have an airstrip for supplies but are otherwise cut off.

Taliban is also besieging the only other big opposition stronghold, the Panjshir Valley held by Ahmed Shah Masood, the Tajik leader. Taliban jets have been pounding the area.

□ New York: US intelligence officers drew up plans last spring for a covert raid to capture Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. *The New York Times* said yesterday. (AP)



Iranian soldiers perform military manoeuvres close to Afghanistan, where thousands of Shia Muslims are fighting extremist Taliban forces

Ban on logging to cut 1m jobs

FROM OWEN BROWN IN BEIJING

MORE than a million Chinese lumberjacks will trade their axes for shovels as part of a three-year plan to replant the forests of China and prevent a repeat of this summer's devastating floods.

Over-logging in central Sichuan province has been blamed for the worst flooding along the Yangtze in 44 years, with experts blaming millions of tons of silt washed each year into the upper reaches of the river for the record-high floods which have claimed more than 3,000 lives in the past three months.

The Government last week banned logging in Sichuan's 54 western counties, putting 4.6 million hectares of forest off limits to chainsaws, shutting down 65 timber mills and reducing production at a further 70 mills.

The State Forestry Administration estimated that the three-year ban would put more than a million people employed in China's timber industry out of work.

Li Yucal, deputy director of the forestry administration, said most laid-off workers would be given new jobs as tree planters.

A £1.5 billion investment strategy would ensure better protection for China's old-growth forests and eventually make lumber production

mainly reliant on newly planted trees. Mr Li told the state-run Xinhua newsagency.

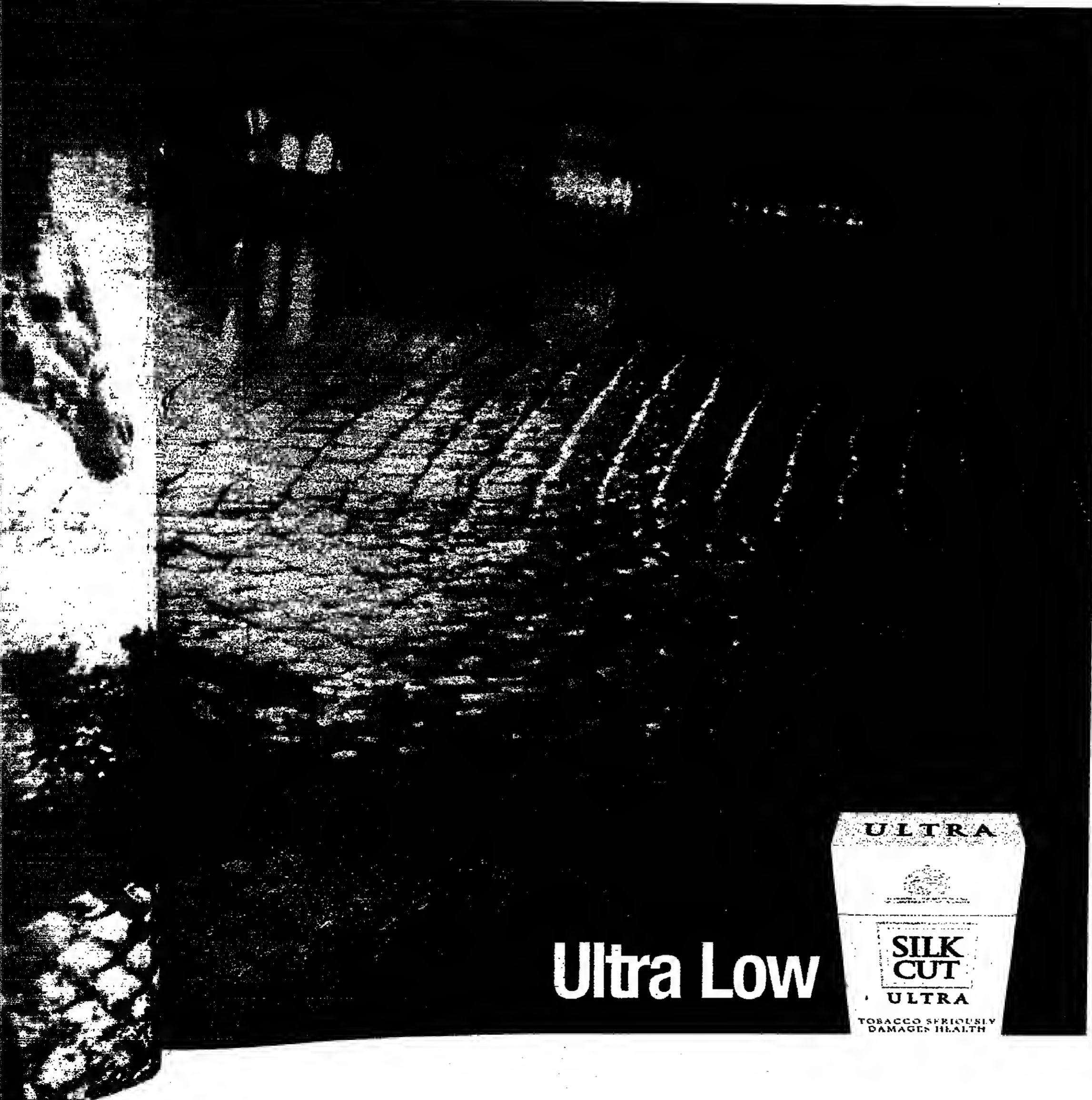
The total projected spending included £44 million earmarked this year for plantings in the upper Yangtze and Heilongjiang province in China's north-east, which bore the brunt of this year's floods.

Although China has 87 million hectares of forests, accounting for 9 per cent of its land, over-logging by illegal timber mills and farmers in isolated communities desperate for winter fuel prompted predictions that the country could be completely cleared of woodland in the next decade.

The International environmental group Greenpeace welcomed the move, but said the Government had acted too late. Ho Wai Chi, executive director of Greenpeace China said: "Something has to be done to improve farmers' livelihoods and allow them to survive without logging."

□ Rights pledge: Mary Robinson, the United Nations human rights chief, vowed to ensure that an agreement she hopes Chinese leaders will sign during her visit to the country would have "practical implications" for advancing human rights. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21



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Power of motion in the ocean

Somewhere off the south-west coast an intriguing experiment is about to begin. A hole will be drilled in the seabed and an "underwater windmill" planted there, the first major step in a project to test whether the swirling currents in the ocean can be transformed into useful energy.

The immense power of the sea is locked into the tides. "Tides are set up when the Moon pulls the surface of the ocean," says Peter Fraenkel, the technical director of IT Power, the Hampshire firm that designed the windmill, or marine current turbine. "This causes the ocean to slope and therefore currents are set up."

The resulting flows are particularly strong when the water is forced around headlands or between two chunks of land. That makes the British Isles, with their jagged geography, an ideal testing ground. A feasibility study by the company suggested that the currents in the Pentland Firth between Orkney and the Scottish mainland could produce 5,000 megawatts, equivalent to the output of five nuclear power stations — about 6 per cent of the nation's energy needs. A survey conducted for the Department of Trade and Industry showed that if all known currents surrounding the British Isles were harnessed, up to a fifth of our power needs could be met by marine current technology. And those are just the currents that have been documented; there are bound to be others lurking in unstudied areas.

This month, thanks to a £675,000 grant from the European Union, IT Power will get to build a full-scale turbine and anchor it off Devon or Cornwall. The turbine, which is unlikely to begin operation before 2000, will have blades about 15 metres long; these will be pushed round by the ocean currents, typically about 2-3 metres per second (about 4-6 knots) and generate about 300 kilowatts. A cable will carry the energy

Giant windmills on the seabed may create vital energy, says Anjana Ahuja

on to land and feed it into the National Grid. Eventually, Mr Fraenkel envisages that there could be clusters of turbines dotted around British waters, silently and cleanly siphoning off the sea's limitless energy and pumping it into our homes. The cost of 6p per kilowatt hour is three times that of electricity produced by conventional means but it would drop if the turbines were mass-produced. There has been a successful small-scale test of the marine current concept in Scotland. That trial, using a 3.5 metre turbine, was done in conjunction with Scottish Nuclear, the idea fell by the wayside after Scottish Nuclear was taken over. But it gave an idea of the difficulties involved. "We anchored a pontoon and hung the turbine underneath," says Mr Fraenkel. "But because the seabed was hard rock with a slimy covering, the chains dragged. So we now think the best approach would be to drill a hole and drop the turbine in. That way it stays there."

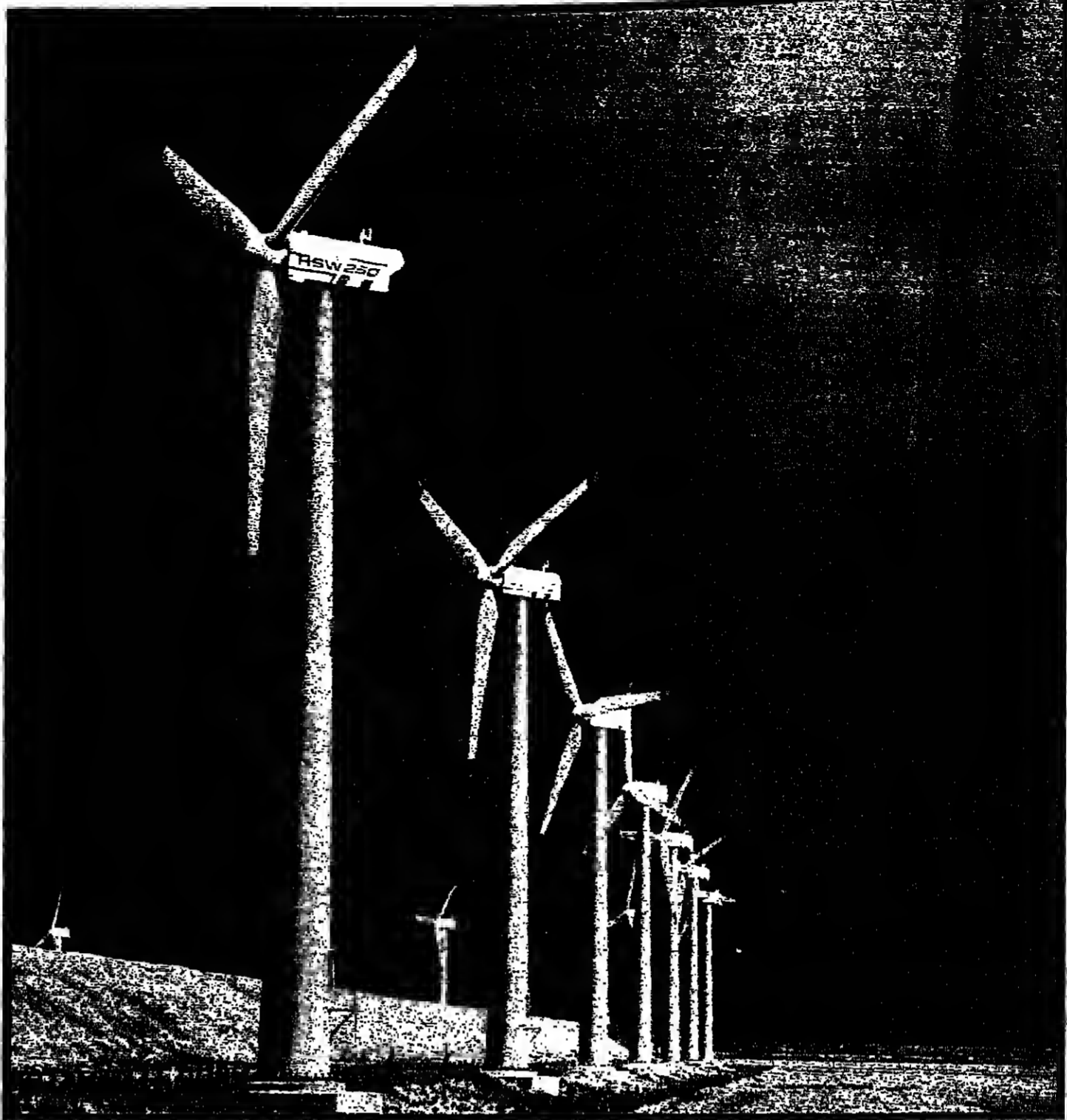
Seacore, a Cornish firm, will do the drilling. Other partners are the University of Kassel in Germany, and ITT Flygt, a Swedish firm that will manufacture the turbines.

A study by marine biologists around Orkney and Shetland concludes that environmental impact would be minimal. The turbines, or sails, rotate so slowly that sea animals can move out of the way, and because all the action takes place in the water, noise is minimal.

"If this gets off the ground, the biggest problem would be fishing nets getting caught in the turbines," Mr Fraenkel says. "There would need to be an exclusion zone for shipping, and we would need permission from Trinity House, which oversees shipping. But the strongest currents tend to be around rocky coastlines, which are hazardous anyway." Wind farms, which have been springing up all over Britain, have been touted as the environmentally friendly way to produce energy. Yet underwater windmills have advantages over their land counterparts. They are less of an eyesore and noise nuisance (although there would need to be a sign of the turbines above water to alert ships). The currents also ebb and flow in a predictable way, unlike wind. And currents vary around the coast, even when one set of turbines isn't operating, another can take up the slack.

The outlook isn't all rosy. The turbines could be hazardous to operate and maintain in bad weather. Seawater corrosion must also be taken into account. But the system will weigh less because it is submerged. So steel and concrete, which are cheap and hardy, could be used for the turbines; land windmills use expensive plastics and carbon fibre. If these underwater generators are such a good idea, why has it taken so long to try them out? The main reason, Mr Fraenkel says, is that offshore engineering is so much more sophisticated than it once was.

"To drill a hole in the seabed 20 years ago and drop a pile in would have been science fiction — and then everyone used coal and didn't give a damn about the environment. Also, the UK and EU have set targets for 10 per cent of all energy to come from renewable sources. We can't meet them unless we go into the sea."



Land or sea? Windmills are springing up throughout Britain, but underwater turbines offer power without disfiguring the landscape

Face the fats: sugar is not a diet disaster

NOBODY gets fat overnight, but many people do so during a decade or so.

A man of ideal weight at the age of 20, who puts on just a few pounds every six months, will be clinically obese by 35. In middle age such insidious weight gain becomes increasingly difficult to prevent. The answer, to judge by the re-

sults of a recent five-nation study, is to try to lose weight just as slowly and surely. And, as any dieter knows, most diets fail.

But the Carmen study (for Carbohydrate Manipulation in European National diets) achieved success by shifting to a diet lower in fat but higher in starches and sugars. Volun-

teers were taught to choose the right foods and they were allowed to eat as much as they wanted. The results were undramatic, but encouraging.

More than 300 overweight people from Spain, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany and Britain were put into one of three groups. One continued with their normal diet,

while the other two switched to diets lower in fat. Instead of receiving about 36 per cent of their food energy from fat, they got 30 per cent.

To make up for it, one of the lower-fat groups was encouraged to eat lots of starchy food — bread, potatoes and pasta — while the other combined such foods with sugar and

foods containing sugar. The aim was to discover not only whether those diets lower in fat cut weight, but whether they were sustainable over six months, and whether filling up on sugar negated the benefits.

The results, reported by Dr Wim Saris of Maastricht University in The Netherlands to the International Obesity Congress in Paris last week, show that both low-fat groups lost weight. The starch and sugar group lost, on average, 18kg (40lb) during the six months and the starch-alone group 0.94kg. The group that stuck with their normal diet gained 0.82 kg. If these rates of weight loss

could be sustained indefinitely, then they would make a big contribution to controlling the growing Western "epidemic" of obesity. In Britain 11 per cent of men between 35 and 49 are obese, while 11 per cent of women are obese by 35.

A particularly gratifying result for the sugar industry (which, together with the European Union, financed the Carmen study) was that eating sugar rather than other carbohydrates had no deleterious effects either in terms of weight loss or on cholesterol levels.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

SA studies Sixties generation

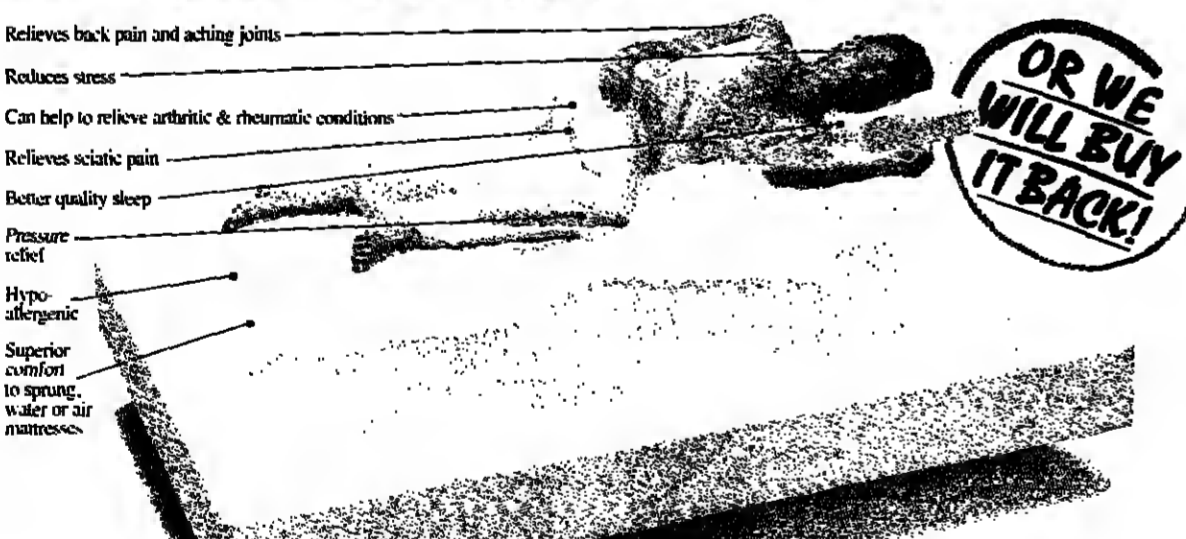
SOUTH AFRICA'S electricity giant, Eskom, is looking at a nuclear technology that has been neglected since the Sixties. The company favours developing the high-temperature, gas-cooled reactor — a design that was explored in Europe and America before water-cooled reactors swept all before them. These reactors were technically successful but failed to be commercialised because of cut-

backs in nuclear spending, and a failure to appreciate the inherent design advantages. Eskom — one of the world's biggest electricity generators, with 33,000 megawatts of installed capacity — says that a high-temperature reactor, cooled by helium and fuelled by pebbles of uranium dioxide coated with silicon carbide, has many advantages. By operating at high temper-

atures using helium, which is chemically and radiologically inert, it would be possible to drive a gas turbine directly from the hot helium in a closed cycle — increasing thermal efficiency from the 35 per cent to 45 per cent. The reactor would be intrinsically safe, since even if an accident occurred, heat loss from the fuel would always exceed the generation of decay heat, meaning that emergency-core cooling systems would not be needed. Eskom argues that these advantages would mean electricity generation at prices competitive with those of any other fuel. It estimates that a base load station operating for 40 years would produce power for less than 1p per kilowatt-hour. It is now looking for experts to carry out an environmental assessment of the design before deciding whether to build a pilot plant.

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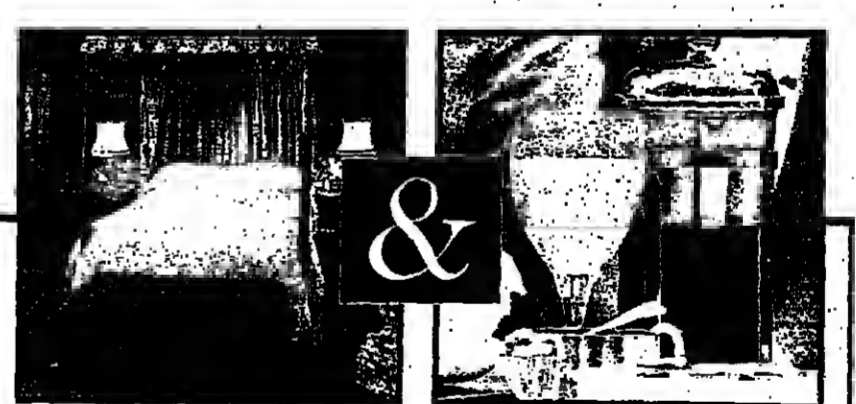
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In defence of the birds

SOME ground-nesting birds go to heroic efforts to build ramps of flat stone in front of their nests. The blackstart, which lives in the deserts of the Middle East, is a small bird but the female will cheerfully spend four or five days fetching stones to create a mosaic several layers deep, up to 2ft wide and 3ft deep in front of the rock crevices where it nests. Ornithologists have put forward many explanations, including protection from wind, a means of controlling temperature variations in the nest, simple sexual display, or discouraging predators. Dr Noam Leader and Dr Yoram Yom-Tov of Tel Aviv University watched blackstarts (*Cercomela melanura*) in En-Gedi nature reserve on the west shore of the Dead Sea to try to discover the true reason for a behaviour which is costly both in time and energy. They conclude in *Animal Behaviour* that the stones serve not to deter predators, but to provide an early warning of their arrival. Birds which nest in crevices have nowhere to go if an animal such as the spiny mouse, a large omnivorous rodent, appears at the entrance. But if the mouse has to tiptoe through a pebble ramp, surprise is lost and the bird can escape. The zoologists found it almost impossible to approach blackstart nests without alerting the birds, even when they were 30ft or more away. But mice make much less noise, so to mimic their behaviour the scientists rigged up a nylon cord to a stone in the ramp and pulled. They found the noise this caused was quite sufficient to send the female rocking from the nest.



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سكزا من الأصل

The sensual glamour of the geisha



TOP LEFT: Grey vintage silk kimono, £72, from a selection at Neal St East, 5 Neal St, London WC2. Tel: 0171-240 0135. Long grey lace dress, £650, by Abe Hamilton available from Koh Samui, 65 Monmouth St WC1. Grey beaded earrings, approximately £72, by Donatella Pellini, available from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1 or Harrods, Knightsbridge. Tel: 0171-225 1694.

ABOVE: Claret and velvet coat with silk lining, £957. Gold and lilac silk dress, £455. Available from Krizia, 25 Conduit St W1. Tel: 0171-491 4987.

FAR LEFT: Violet and gold embroidered quilted coat available from a selection at Ghost, 36 Ledbury Rd W11. Violet satin plunge-back slip dress, £165, by Ghost and available at Browns, 23-27 South Molton St W1; Willy's, 24 Gandy St, Exeter.

LEFT: Green metallic and chifon kimonos, £651, by Rifat Ozbek. Matching dress with beading detail, £278, by Ozbek, both available at Browns, as above. Green velvet flip-flops, £11.95, from Neal St East, as above.

Photographer: LUCY FITTER. Stylist: Nicola Godie at Mandy Coakley. Make-up: Britta D at Mandy Coakley, using Estée Lauder. Hair: Paul Vincent Brown at Michaeljohn, using Michaeljohn products.

Wearing a kimono is as much a state of mind as a flamboyant fashion statement, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

Even *Cherry Blair* read *Memoirs of a Geisha* this summer. The tale of Chiyo, sold as an apprentice geisha in the 1930s, has proved a compulsive read for many. Her mastery of ancient ritual, her triumph over the wicked senior geisha and her struggle to become the adopted daughter

of the house are gripping stuff. For fashion people, however, these attractions are surpassed by the alluring depictions of Japanese kimonos. Dressing gowns, decadent day-wear that owes much to night-wear, kimonos are the latest take on the bohemian mood that has been sweeping fashion for a few seasons now. You will either feel comfortable in them or you won't — but if they are your thing, then age need not be an impediment. These flamboyant, ageless clothes are about mental attitude, not the date on the birth certificate. But what mental attitude exactly? It can go in two directions: totally Zen, or 1920s house party. It was the latter that Paul Smith was striving for in his first women's wear show, turning a warehouse in Chelsea

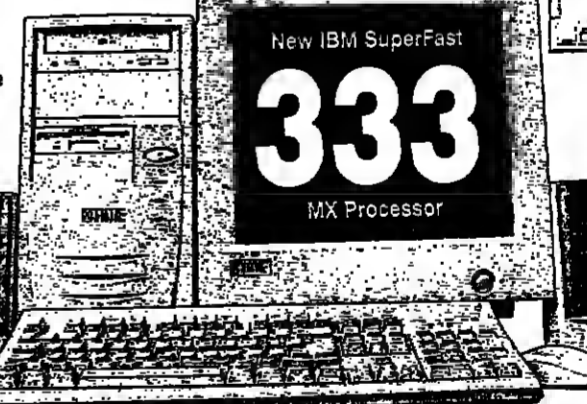
into a country house, with chesterfields and chaises longues lining the catwalk. His floral silk kimono was the strongest look of the show. Beyond the catwalk, the best advert for this second look came last Monday in *The Mrs Bradley Mysteries*. Did anyone else swoon at the numbers Diana Rigg wore to bed? This was a costume drama in the most literal sense, all silk dressing gowns and flowing headscarves. If you go in the other direction, Zen isn't as scary as it sounds. Ideally, you should invite your friends over for a Zen kind of evening: you might, after all, feel a little silly going to the local sushi bar in a richly patterned dressing gown. Still, there's a long artistic tradition to the look. Toulouse-Lautrec, Mucha and Klimt were all inspired by the kimo-

no — Lautrec even took to wandering about in one. If you'd like to own one, but don't want to spend the earth, or if, indeed, you only want to wear it in the safety of your home, then you're best off hunting around for an antique one. Neal Street East is a good place to start, although any specialist shop should be able to lay its hands on one. Splashing out is a doddle (as always), though you can comfort yourself with the idea that some of these designs will be worth handing on to your grandchildren. Others are more fashion-led. Ghost's dressing-gown coat hits two trends in one (it is quilted: another hot look for winter), while the claret and gold coat and dress by the Italian designer Krizia is a wonderful — and far from eccentric — evening combination.

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RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY



The tears streamed from my

Today, in the first extract from his autobiography, Richard Branson describes some of his musical highs and lows and tells of his despair as he was forced to sell the company that made his name



Smiling through it all: "We had come of age, we were the label of choice for many of the world's biggest bands. But just as we reached this height, it was over"

There was £560 million — \$1 billion — on the table, but I didn't want it. "They need to know by 2pm this afternoon," John Thornton, an investment banker at Goldman Sachs, told me. I rang off. I looked across at Simon Draper, one of the driving forces behind Virgin Music. It was 1992. We had spent the past 20 years building up the company, but nothing had prepared us for selling it.

about the bank's attitude to Virgin Atlantic, then the airline and the rest of Virgin's companies would be damaged. And so, hating myself for having cashed in, I stood there and offered everybody a job at Virgin Atlantic if they were unhappy. When one of the staff passed a vote of thanks for "the best years of our lives," I could bear it no longer. I left the room and set off at a sprint down Ludbrooke Grove, tears streaming down my face.

Richard Branson's first venture, branching out from Student — a hip, low-budget magazine — was the Virgin Moll Order record company. But the postal strikes of 1971 threatened to bankrupt the company. His answer was to rent a small shop in Oxford Street and start selling records quickly, before the money ran out.

If Virgin set up a record label, then we could offer artists somewhere to record (for which we could charge them); we could publish and release their records (from which we could make profit); and we had a large and growing chain of shops where we could promote and sell their records (and make the retail profit margin).

with Virgin Music was Mike Oldfield, the third reserve guitarist from *Hair*. "I'll need to rent some instruments," Mike warned me. "Like what?" I pulled out my diary and prepared a list.

A silence fell between us. I watched Mike as he held the steering wheel and I imagined himself driving this car. I knew he was tempted. I hoped he would agree. "It's a deal," Mike said.

in November 1977, Virgin released *Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols*. The lettering on the album sleeve was a brilliant design by Jamie Reid, crudely cut out from newspaper headlines in the same way as hate mail and kidnappers' notes were delivered.

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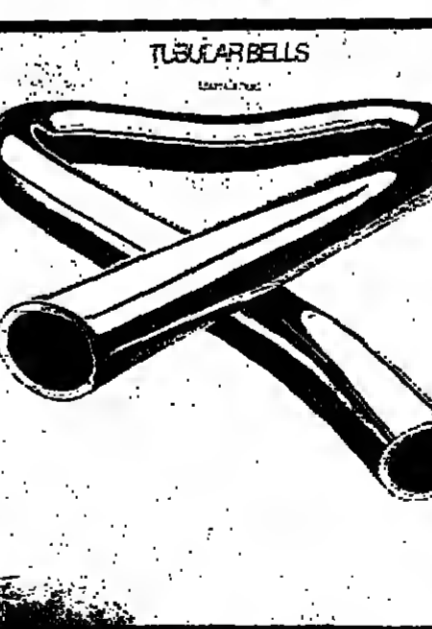
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It took Mike well into 1973 to record what became known as *Tubular Bells*. It was a fantastically complicated sequence of recordings to make and he went over it again and again in the recording studio, mixing, dubbing, and fine-tuning all the different layers of music.

On the day of the concert Mike came round to see me on the houseboat. "Richard," he said quietly. "I can't go through with this concert tonight. I felt a wave of despair. I tried to forget that the whole concert was arranged, the decks sold and even television coverage agreed."

IN THE SUMMER of 1976 we had a crisis meeting to go through the Virgin Roster. One by one we debated whether we



The first Virgin album that really captured people's imagination

could afford to keep such acts as Hatfield and the North or Dave Bedford that cost us money to promote and looked unlikely ever to break into the big time. We cut back on whatever we could. First we sold our cars. Then we had to drop a few artists from the record label and make nine staff redundant.

One of the artists we reluctantly dropped was Dave Bedford, a brilliantly gifted classical composer. Dave reacted very well to the bad news: he wrote a long letter to me saying how much he understood the decision, that he appreciated that his records had not sold, that he would have done the same if he were in my shoes, that he bore Virgin no grudges and wished us all the best for the future.

"Do you want to drive?" "All right," Mike said cautiously. We drove on, over Westminster Bridge. "Mike," I said. "Would you like to have this car? As a present?" "A present?" "Yes. I'll get out here and walk home. You just keep on driving and the car's yours." "Come off it! It was your wedding present."

THE SEX PISTOLS were a turning point for us: the hand we had been looking for. They put Virgin on the map, generating more newspaper cuttings than anything else in 1977, apart from the Silver Jubilee itself. Their notoriety was practically a

Professor James Kingsley, Professor of Linguistics at Nottingham University. "The word 'bollocks' is an 18th-century nickname for priests. And then, because priests generally seemed to speak such a lot of nonsense in their sermons, 'bollocks' gradually came to mean rubbish."

face a

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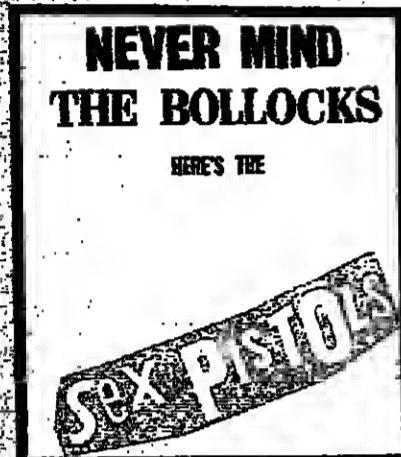
صكزا من الأهل

RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

face as I ran down the road



Boy makes good: Culture Club's *Karma Chameleon* hit No 1 in every country that had a chart; inside the Virgin shop



Gunning for Virgin: the offending album that led to a court case. Right: the first Virgin Records store, in Notting Hill



Going with the flow: the houseboat that was Branson's home and headquarters. The list of instruments that Mike Oldfield, above, requested and which were later used in *Tabular Bells*



TOMORROW



'If I'm going to stop British Airways, then I'm going to need proof.'
How Branson took on Lord King, and the inside story of BA's 'dirty tricks' campaign

to reveal a dog collar. Professor Kingsley was also the Rev James Kingsley. "That's enough," snapped the magistrate. He straightened his back, squared his shoulders and, adopting as much magisterial solemnity as he could muster, announced: "The case is dismissed."

IN 1975, I HAD tried but failed to sign the Rolling Stones but I did come across them at the Virgin recording studios. I was there one weekend when they were lounging around the sitting room after an all-night session.

Keith Richards was still in bed with his girlfriend, a Jamaican. There was a crunch of gravel outside and a frenzied knocking at the door. The Stones were all lying around drinking coffee and waking up, so I got up and opened the door.

A tall Jamaican in a purple jacket stood in front of me. "Where is she?" he demanded, giving the name of the girl who was upstairs with Keith.

I had assumed that the girl was Keith's girlfriend. It was quickly clear that I was wrong. As I hesitated, he pulled out a gun and pointed it in my face.

As I looked speechlessly at the pistol, out of the corner of my eye I noticed two naked figures tiptoeing out of a side door. It was Keith and the girl. They took a quick look at the Jamaican and then

broke into a sprint across the lawn behind him. I admired their speed. Keith's hair flapped up and down his white back as he tore along and hurled the wooden fence in a great leap. The girl kept up with him, running as if her life depended upon it — which perhaps it did. They both cleared the railings, landed in the field and sped towards the river.

The Jamaican realised that my attention had wavered from his gun and spun round to follow my gaze. He saw the two bare bottoms, one black the other white, gave an inarticulate roar of rage and ran to his car. He revved up and tore off down the drive, trying to cut them off. I lost sight of them. I still wonder how they escaped.

MIKE OLDFIELD had been a lifelong introvert but now he wanted to get married. "How long have you known her?" I asked.

"Three days." "Don't you have to wait?" "I can't wait," he said. "She won't sleep with me until we're married. It's tomorrow, at Chelsea Register Office."

Having failed to talk him out of it, my wife Joan and I went along to the register office and waited for Mike and his bride. We brought two carved African stools with us as wedding presents. We put them down on the pavement outside and sat on them awaiting Mike's arrival.

Mike and Sarah were married and we gave them the stools. We had dinner together that night, but the evening ended early since Mike was so clearly intent on getting Sarah into bed. The next morning the phone rang.

"Richard, I want a divorce." It was Mike.

"What's wrong?" "We're not compatible," Mike said, in a voice that brooked no further questions. Mike and Sarah went more or less straight from the register office to the lawyers and he ended up paying her more than £200,000 in alimony. My mind boggles at what went on that night but whatever happened it must go down as one of the most expensive one-night stands in history.

FOR CHRISTMAS 1982, we released Culture Club's first album, *Kissing to Be Clever*, which sold four million copies around the world. And then in January came another amazing breakthrough: their fourth single, *Karma Chameleon*, was the top-selling single of 1983, selling more than 1.4 million copies in the UK and reaching No 1 in every country around the world that had a chart. Culture Club were a worldwide pop phenomenon and their second album, *Colour by Numbers*, sold almost ten million copies.

Virgin's finances were thrown upside down: from the £900,000 loss in 1980, we

made a profit of £2 million in 1982 on sales of £50 million. In 1983 our sales shot up to £94 million and our profits soared to £11 million. Once we had started the Boy George fan club, it was impossible to control it, and in 1983 40 per cent of our profits came from Boy George.

For the first two years the Culture Club story was the perfect model. The extraordinary thing about the record industry is

how success can take off without warning. One minute nobody had heard of Boy George; the next every person around the world from Ireland to Korea and Japan to Ghana was humming *Karma Chameleon*. Many people find such a vertical run frightening and would be right in thinking it creates havoc in a company. Happily, I have always thrived on havoc and adrenalin and so I felt perfectly at home

as we fanned the flames of Culture Club's success.

● *Extracted from Losing My Virginity: The Autobiography by Richard Branson, to be published by Virgin Publishing on September 17 at £20. Times readers can buy it for £18 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0900 154459. Copyright Richard Branson 1998*

Thanks a million, Prince Rupert

During that rather awkward patch between 1974 and 1976, when Mike Oldfield was our only superstar, I pitched unsuccessfully for the Rolling Stones. When manager, Prince Rupert Loewenstein, he was prepared to listen to me. "How much are you asking for?" I asked him. "You'll never be able to afford it," Prince Rupert told me sympathetically. "It'll be at least \$3 million. And, anyway, Virgin is just too small."

I knew that the only way to get his attention was to considerably better that offer.

"I'll offer you \$4 million," I told him. "As long as there is some back catalogue available."

Buying the back catalogue would enable Virgin to release a greatest hits album and would be a good insurance policy if the new record failed.

"I'll send you round the list of the back catalogue that's available," Prince Rupert said. "If you can bring a bank guarantee for \$4 million to my office by Monday, then I'll look at it

very seriously. Best of luck." That was on Friday. Prince Rupert assumed that he had set me an impossible task. That weekend I travelled around the chain of Virgin distributors we had set up across Europe in France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Sweden and Norway. As I travelled I was constantly on the telephone to those in the rest of the world. I was looking to raise about £250,000 from each distributor.

By Monday morning I was back in London but still some way short of the \$4 million. After adding up all the different commitments from the distributors, Counts promised to make up the difference. I drove round to Prince Rupert's house in Petersham



Branson's unsuccessful pitch meant more money for the Stones

just before 11 o'clock with a bank guarantee for \$4 million. Prince Rupert was dumbfounded. I had caught him completely off guard. He fingered the \$4 million cheque but then gave it back. "You'll have a chance to match the highest bidder," he promised. "But you've started an auction."

In the end EMI won the auction, with a bid of \$5 million, and signed the Rolling Stones. I couldn't raise any more than the \$4 million. Although I was disappointed to have failed, I knew that I had done the Stones a good turn by increasing the asking price from the \$3 million Prince Rupert would have been happy to accept.

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Festival salutes a father-figure

There were enough themes at this year's Edinburgh Festival to give even the most avid culture vulture indigestion...



EDINBURGH 98

OPERA

Dalibor/Libuse Festival Theatre

Smetana is seen as the father-figure of Czech music, though he had predecessors and successors in plenty...

We keep quiet about the fact that Smetana's command of the Czech language was incomplete...

trois blessed by solo violin carolling away. Rum stuff. Libuse is almost as rum. She was a sort of female Moses figure for the Czech nation...

Both these operas break every known rule of composition for the stage, and both are quite wonderful, inspiring, refreshing, deeply stirring...

Haydn is a likelier role model: like him, Smetana can make a single musical idea go an awfully long way...

The performances were outstanding. Richard Armstrong and the Scottish Opera Orchestra and Chorus showed complete command of Smetana's rogue idiom...

The all-Czech cast for Libuse was led by Eva Urbanova, a thrilling heroic soprano making her operatic debut here...

RODNEY MILNES



Kathleen Broderick (Milada) with Leo Marian Vodicka (Dalibor) in David Pountney's staging of Smetana's opera

Watching big brother

One thing missing from this year's Edinburgh International Festival has been maverick spirits. Only Ivo van Hove's two productions have come close...

THEATRE

ators, listlessly pacing the floor of some vast bunker, while Caligula is absent without leave, mourning the death of the sister he loved in a very unbrotherly way...

him out of his misery. Yet, while he sullies what was once the purest of loves, every desperate act is a yearning for that purity to return. Camus' text is both a thrilling tragedy and a near-perfect primer in existential philosophy...

NEIL COOPER



Steven van Watermeulen's Caligula talks to the camera

Cut the chatter

What Peter Stein needed was a good director. He had been engaged to provide a narration to link the Egmont Overture with the nine variably inspired items of incidental music...

CONCERT

sen, was not inclined to tell him - that, with an audience assembled to hear Beethoven's music and an orchestra there to play it, there was no point in talking over it or otherwise interrupting it.

phie Daneman. Best of all was Swensen's dramatically charged and tightly articulated interpretation of the Overture. One of the problems with the rest of the SCO's ill-conceived Beethoven concert was that there was nothing else for the conductor to project himself into with the same recklessly wholehearted commitment...

GERALD LARNER

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE Diana Rigg takes on Racine's tempestuous Phedre at the Albery OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



FILM Saving Private Ryan: Spielberg's graphic depiction of D-Day RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA David Rendall sings the doomed Otello in the ENO's new production OPENS: Friday REVIEW: Next week



MUSIC Midori makes a fresh date with her fans at the Wigmore Hall CONCERT: Sunday REVIEW: Next week PLUS: Claude Deppa blows his trumpet at the South Bank, Thursday

Large advertisement section containing various concert listings, theatre notices, and promotional offers for artists like Rod Stewart, Celine Dion, and Eric Clapton.

NEWS

BSkyB prepares United offer

Negotiations to finalise a formal offer for Manchester United of about £575 million from BSKyB were continuing last night, with at least two of the football club's directors arguing that the price was too low for a unique asset.

A number of politicians also expressed concern over any deal, including Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who said that an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading was possible because of the profound consequences.

Yeltsin offers power-sharing

President Yeltsin will meet his parliamentary opponents today for make-or-break talks that will determine whether Russia emerges from its political paralysis.

Monarchy shake-up

Downing Street last night sought to distance itself from proposals for a radical shake-up of the monarchy drawn up by an influential New Labour think-tank.

Patten comeback

Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong, declared that he would be open to offers to make a comeback as an MP next year.

Union pressure

Trade union leaders will today put further pressure on the Prime Minister to help industry and protect jobs amid growing uncertainty in the economy.

Drug allegations

Tory peers are threatening to expel the Earl of Hardwicke, 77, from their party after allegations that he dealt drugs inside the Houses of Parliament.

Hawking's message

Stephen Hawking, the Nobel prize-winning scientist, has sent a message to the British Association for the Advancement of Science condemning activists who try to block experiments on animals.

CS gas alarm

The Police Complaints Authority has given warning of a backlash against the use of CS spray, after judges' criticisms over its misuse and growing public concern about its effects.

Walking lesson

Children will take part today in an attempt to prevent traffic congestion caused by the school run. The "virtual bus" is seen as a cheap way of persuading parents to let their children walk to school.

£1 million club

Fifteen Queen's Counsel who reputedly earn £1 million a year are named this week in a survey of earnings at the Bar.

Kosovo warning

In the strongest condemnation of Belgrade's war policy in Kosovo to date, two leading US human rights officials gave warning of an impending human catastrophe.

Anxious homecoming

President Clinton returned from Russia and Ireland to face the worsening crisis over his presidency as more leading Democrats deserted his cause and Washington waited for the impeachment report.

Invasion threat

Iran moved 70,000 troops close to the Afghan border in a tacit threat to invade.

Planting policy

More than a million Chinese lumberjacks will trade their axes for shovels as part of a three-year plan to replant the forests and prevent a repeat of this summer's devastating floods.



Ziggy, a 7-year-old tortoise, with Linda Jones at a meeting of the British Association of Tortoise Keepers in Droitwich, Worcestershire

Table listing various sections and their corresponding page numbers, including NEWS, BUSINESS, FEATURES, ARTS, SPORT, RADIO & TV, CULTURE, FUN PAPERS, and MORE.

BUSINESS
Action vacuum: Stock markets face a vacuum in official action to forestall the spread of recession and a flood of cautious reports from big companies.

FEATURES
Smiling through: In the first extract from his biography, Richard Branson describes some of his highs and lows and tells of his despair as he was forced to sell the company that made his name.

ARTS
Boys will be girls: The transsexuals and transvestites known as the Lady Boys of Bangkok bring their cabaret to London.

SPORT
Football: Doubts about Glenn Hoddle's tactical adaptability were raised by England's 2-1 defeat by Sweden in the European championship qualifying match.

RADIO & TV
Preview: Trading standards officers investigate a sex shop (BBC, 9.30pm). Review: Lenny Henry is Tigger out of Winnie the Pooh, says Paul Hoggart.

CULTURE
War of Jenkins' ear
The closer the scrutiny given to the alternatives, the stronger becomes the common-sense case for keeping the present system for electing the House of Commons.

LOOK AT THE GIRLS
The numbers of girls who are out-classing boys in examinations have been steadily growing. Educationists claim to be baffled; but a Government out to raise overall educational standards should identify the reasons.

FASHION
Geisha glamour: Wearing a kimono is as much a state of mind as a flamboyant fashion statement, says Grace Bradberry.

TO-MORROW
IN THE TIMES
ARTS
Happy families: the domestic paintings of Pieter de Hooch go on show in London.

LAW
A leading solicitor speaks out for the trial by jury system

LOTTERY NUMBERS
9, 10, 11, 27, 42, 47. Bonus: £. Five tickets each won £1,425,455; 19 won £15,421 for five numbers and the bonus; 855 won £1,603 for five; 57,053 won £52 for four; 1,091,408 won £10 for three.

LETTERS
The merchant navy: solicitors' earnings: ROH orchestra's future: Tories and Europe: the "Giving Age": NHS waiting lists: testing infants.

FUN PAPERS
It is paradoxical that Iran and Afghanistan, both of which lay claim to revolutionary Islam and both of which have clerical Muslim regimes, are on the verge of war.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 20,890. Grid with numbers and some letters filled in.

THE SOLUTION OF SATURDAY'S PRIZE PUZZLE NO 20,889. Text describing the puzzle solution and prize details.

AA INFORMATION
Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions. AA Road - All regions.

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday's highest day temp. Lowest day temp. Highest night temp. Lowest night temp.

FORECAST
General: Windy, especially in south-west areas where exposed coastal areas will have winds close to gale force for a time.

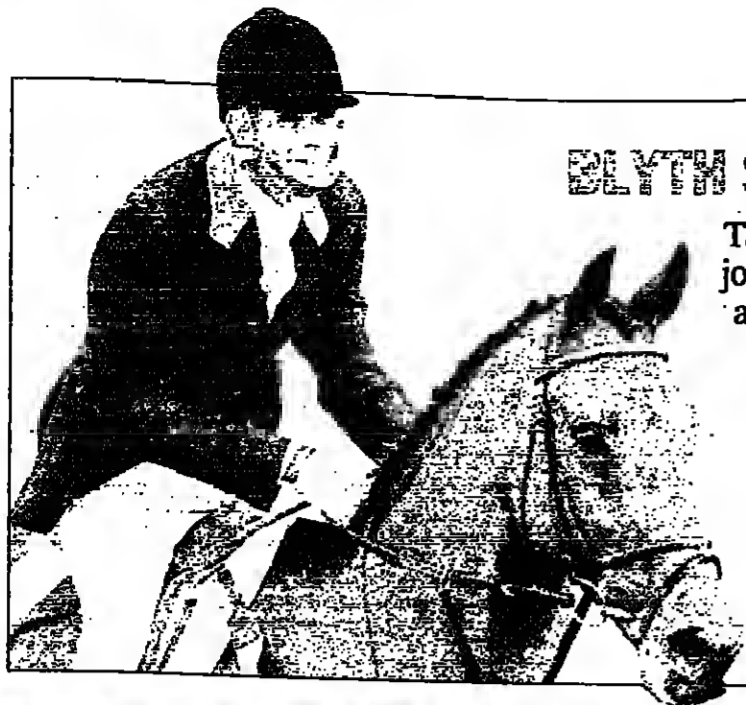
NOON TODAY
Changes to chart from noon: Low D expected to move slowly northwards, pressure unchanged. Low E moves eastwards, starts to fill. High F remains in situ, pressure unchanged.

Hoddle storm
The media are full of headlines about the storm that has hit the British Isles. But what are the facts?

Times Two Crossword, page 48
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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



BLYTH SPIRIT

Tait achieves joint honours at Burghley
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WEATHER-BEATEN

Derbyshire blown away by Lancashire in NatWest Trophy final
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OPEN SEAS

Champions given the runaround by Richmond
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Plus
Henman shines in New York
PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

CREDIBILITY GAP WIDENS FURTHER AS FOOTBALLERS REACT TO DEFEAT



England's poor display in Stockholm gave Hoddle few reasons to be cheerful. Yesterday, however, he argued that the 2-1 defeat against Sweden was not a calamity. Photograph: Russell Boyce

Hoddle stays calm amid storms around England

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN STOCKHOLM

THE missiles are being hurled at him with increasing force and regularity, but still they bounce off Glenn Hoddle's wall of self-conceit. "Do I look like someone who is distraught?" the England coach asked on Saturday in the aftermath of England's 2-1 collapse in Sweden. To be fair to him, he did not.

Defeat at the Rasunda Stadium here, as Hoddle argued long and hard, was not a calamity. It has, though, further stocked the arsenal that can be turned on the England coach and the heavy shelling is likely to get worse before it gets any better. The ignominious display has turned his next European Championship qualifying match, at home to Bulgaria in five weeks, into a must-win game. Even from this distance, there is an ominous look of more storms ahead.

Hoddle will have to field a team that will certainly be without David Beckham and Paul Ince, who suspended; Darren Anderton and David Batty are highly doubtful. In short, he will be robbed of the heart of his team. What was already sure to be a tense occasion will now be a fraught one, and it will take more than the combined soothing powers of Eileen Drewery and Kenny G to guide England safely through.

Hoddle remains confident of qualification for the championships and one defeat was hardly likely to destroy that notion. As he was quick to point out on Saturday evening, England lost a World Cup qualifying game at home to Italy and still finished top of their group. "It's not a disaster," he said. "It is too early to say that."

The coach's credibility is coming increasingly under siege however

and the defeat on Saturday made laughable the notion Hoddle expressed in his World Cup diary that "it should have been me" lifting the World Cup. If it did not sound like self-satisfying nonsense a week ago, it certainly does now.

Hoddle attempted to play down the effects of the endless book controversies, but his case was undermined by his own captain, who admitted that minds had been led astray by the serialisation sagas. How could it be any other way when so much unease has been allowed to fester?

"I couldn't understand how it all went wrong," Alan Shearer said, "and I don't think all the crap that went on before the game helped, all the stuff about books and all the publicity. It didn't affect me because

my skin is thick but it could have affected others. One thing is for sure, it certainly didn't help.

"In the circumstances it is the worst possible result because we could have killed off all of this and instead we have allowed it to contin-

Ireland triumph 28
Haunted Hoddle 29
Lynne Truss 29
European results 30

ue. I wish we could play on Saturday and get this out of our system. Instead we have a long wait which will allow it all to build up again."

Despite this pessimism, Shearer insisted that the panic button should

not be pressed and that there should be no speculation about Hoddle's job. The England coach hardly helped himself in that regard, however, by initially declining opportunities to rule himself out of the running for the vacancy at his former club, Tottenham Hotspur.

"I've got a contract with the Football Association for the next two years and there are talks around the corner," he said after much pressing. "Nothing has changed from a few weeks ago. Of course it hurts, it hurts immensely. But there is a difference from the World Cup because this was the start of a campaign: Argentina was the end."

Hoddle must secure victories over Bulgaria and then away to Luxembourg next month to ensure that this

campaign still has plenty of life left in it, but his team is certain to be badly weakened, with Ince's dismissal on Saturday a terrible blow.

The Liverpool midfielder player is certain to be given a one-match ban. Worse could await if Pierluigi Collina, the Italian referee, reports the 30-year-old for his shameful actions on being shown the red card.

After screaming three words of abuse in the official's face — the nicest of which was "bald" — Ince had to be restrained by Shearer, and compounded his loss of temper by flicking a V-sign to the crowd as he walked to the tunnel. If any of the incidents are reported by Collina or Mathieu Sprengers, the Uefa delegate, Ince's suspension could be increased.

Anderton also seems certain to be absent. He had a scan on the knee which gave way in the first half and is expected to be out for six to eight weeks with ligament strain. Mrs Drewery can expect a knock on the door. Batty is also struggling as he recovers from an operation on his Achilles tendon.

Beckham will still be suspended after his red card against Argentina during the World Cup, so after not having anyone dismissed since Ray Wilkins 12 years ago, England have now lost a player in successive games. While Hoddle can hardly be held entirely responsible for the discipline of his team, it hardly reflects well and even Michael Owen, booked for a wild lunge, appears to be suffering from frustration.

"He's got to learn to count to 10," Hoddle said. "He is still a youngster. I think there is probably too much heaped on his shoulders at this time with the hysteria." Hoddle might argue that he is suffering from similarly hysterical times, but he has only himself to blame for that.



Ince gets his marching orders against Sweden



The absence of Ince and Beckham, through suspension, and Batty and Anderton, through injury, could cost England dear against Bulgaria at Wembley next month

ENGLAND DISMISSALS

Alan Mullery	v Yugoslavia, Florence, 1968
Alan Gail	v Poland, Chorzow, 1973
Taylor Cherry	v Argentina, Buenos Aires, 1977
Ray Wilkins	v Morocco, Montparnasse, 1986
David Beckham	v Argentina, Saint-Etienne, 1996
Paul Ince	v Sweden, Stockholm, 1998

GROUP 5 TABLE

	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	2	1	3	3
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP FIVE FIXTURES
Oct 10: Poland v Luxembourg, England v Bulgaria, Oct 14: Bulgaria v Sweden, Luxembourg v England, Mar 27, 1999: Sweden v Luxembourg, England v Poland, Mar 31: Luxembourg v Bulgaria, Poland v Sweden, June 5: Poland v Bulgaria, England v Sweden, June 9: Luxembourg v Poland, Bulgaria v England, Sept 4: Sweden v Bulgaria, England v Luxembourg, Sept 8: Luxembourg v Sweden, Poland v England, Oct 9: Sweden v Poland, Oct 10: Bulgaria v Luxembourg.

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USA	8p 24p	75%
UK mobiles	15p 30p	50%

AXS

CRICKET

Crawley cashes in as Lancashire win the lottery

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

LORDS (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Derbyshire by nine wickets

WHEN the rain relented, this was the fastest and finest of all September cup finals...

days are short, the dews severe and the weather variable.

This game lasted 67 overs and offered little more than four hours of cricket.

The groundsman was blameless. When the teams surveyed Mick Hunt's pitch on Friday it was hard, dry and chalk-white.

In their forthright and individual styles, they exploited some wayward opening overs from Wasim Akram and Peter Martin.

Slater drove Glen Chappell over extra cover for six. Derbyshire were in improbable command.

It was a deceptively fragile platform. With the same speed that afternoon turned to evening.

Slater left berating himself for hitting across the line of a full-length ball from Austin.

If Austin wins a World Cup place, it may come at the expense of Dominic Cork.

Derbyshire's 108 was the lowest total by a side batting first in 36 finals.

Derbyshire's 108 was the lowest total by a side batting first in 36 finals.

At a committee meeting tonight, by which time Lancashire may have added the Axa League to the cup they won yesterday.



Atherton's off stump is removed by Cork at Lord's yesterday. Derbyshire's only success as Lancashire cruised to victory by nine wickets.

Wasim celebrates a valedictory triumph

Wasim Akram accepted the NatWest Trophy yesterday on behalf of Lancashire and then, with hand on heavy heart, confessed how much he would miss them.

Michael Henderson sees the Lancashire captain preparing to leave on a high after victory in the Natwest Trophy at Lord's

been a winner four times. Atherton, Warren Hegg and Ian Austin have appeared in eight, because they played on the winning side twice in 1996.

Derbyshire's 108 was the lowest total by a side batting first in 36 finals. Atherton had been caught at slip, as he should have been.

Wasim has played fair by the club, informing them earlier this year that their requirement was a spin bowler, preferably an off spinner, and therefore to approach Muralitharan, who bowled out Eoghan at the Oval last week.

of his benefit season, which seems an appropriate time to take his leave. "I told them I was available next year," he said, "but I will be happy with whatever they decide."

Apart from the Sunday league, they are also third in the county championship with a genuine chance of winning it outright for the first time since 1934.

Yesterday, in a poor final ruined utterly by the foul weather on Saturday, they proved much too strong for Derbyshire, who lost a test that both captains admitted was crucial.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORDS

Table with columns for Derbyshire and Lancashire scores, batsmen, and bowlers. Derbyshire: 108 (100 balls). Lancashire: 108 (100 balls).



Lloyd: considered position

Lloyd pulled back from the brink

DAVID LLOYD suffered three days of mental turmoil before pledging, yesterday, to continue as England coach.

"The England players and staff have also been very supportive and I've no wish to let any of them down with a big winter ahead.

As the ECB's first responsibility is to its own employees, and through them the health of the national team, it might have been assumed that it would instinctively support and protect Lloyd.

media feeding frenzy by saying that Lloyd "could be sacked" — a contingency that virtually no one had considered.

There is a theory that Graham Gooch is being lined up to replace Lloyd. There are those observers who feel a change would be a good thing.

The players, however, and all those closest to them do not agree. Which is a powerful reason why the Board should now be ensuring that the incumbent coach feels more wanted and comfortable.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles soar as new-look Cup begins

AYR Scottish Eagles started the new season just as they ended the old one: beating Cardiff Devils. Third period goals by Mark Montanari, Sam Groleau and Dennis Purdie helped them to a 5-4 success in their opening match in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

CYCLING

Lovatt takes honours in grand prix

MARK LOVATT, normally a worker bee for the Ambrosia team, had the best win of his ten-year career yesterday when he went clear with five miles remaining in the 103-mile Brian Rourke grand prix near Stone, Staffordshire.

GOLF: GERMAN GAINS THIRD TOUR VICTORY AFTER WINNING PLAY-OFF

Struver reveals nerves of steel

IT WAS tense: it was enough to make the blood run cold in this mountain eyrie perched 5,000 feet up the Swiss Alps. The Canon European Masters went into only its second play-off in the past ten years yesterday, and the man who summoned up the nerves of steel was Sven Struver, who overcame Patrik Sjolund, the long-time leader, at the first extra hole.

Gustafson blows in

SOPHIE GUSTAFSON, of Sweden, claimed the £15,000 winner's cheque after 60mph winds wiped out the final round of the Donegal Irish Open at Ballyliffin yesterday.



Struver: upset the odds

he had produced over the first three days to claim his second victory of the season. If that was his aim, he failed. When set alongside the confident 66 of Struver, his closing 70 was an untidy, uncoordinated performance.

Doohan closes gap after Imola victory

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, of Australia, won his fifth 500cc grand prix of the season at Imola yesterday. The world champion finished ahead of Alex Criville of Spain.

Patriots are back on top

BASEBALL: Menwith Hill Patriots re-established themselves as Britain's top team yesterday, winning the Goors League series by taking the second game of the best-of-three final against London Warriors.

Senden holds his nerve

GOLF: A par at the first hole of a sudden-death play-off was enough to give John Senden, of Australia, the Open de Strasbourg title over Darren Lee, of Essex, yesterday.

McGwire homing in

BASEBALL: Mark McGwire, of the St Louis Cardinals, became only the third player in Major League history to score 60 home runs in a season with a 381-foot hit against the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday.

Advertisements for Henma, Beaten K, Victory, and Coxless fo.

سكوا من الأهل

Nationwide Grobbelaar class fail to save Bury



Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Premier League teams and their stats.

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists First Division teams and their stats.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Second Division teams and their stats.

THIRD DIVISION

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Third Division teams and their stats.

SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Scottish Premier League teams and their stats.

FIRST DIVISION

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Scottish First Division teams and their stats.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Scottish Second Division teams and their stats.

THIRD DIVISION

Table with columns: HOME, AWAY, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Scottish Third Division teams and their stats.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING MATCHES

Table showing European Championship qualifying matches for various groups (Group One to Group Nine) with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

SCOTLAND FIRST DIVISION

Table showing Scottish First Division matches and results.

SECOND DIVISION

Table showing Scottish Second Division matches and results.

THIRD DIVISION

Table showing Scottish Third Division matches and results.

GOALSCORERS

Table listing goal scorers for various Scottish leagues.

CONFERENCE

Table showing Conference league matches and results.

THIRD DIVISION

Table showing Conference Third Division matches and results.

GOALSCORERS

Table listing goal scorers for the Conference.

VERNONS PLAY LOTTERY GAME

RESULTS FOR THIS SATURDAY'S MATCHES. There will be payouts on a basis of one and two score draws...

FINAL COUNTDOWN

Sixteen nations will qualify to take part in the European Championship finals in 2000. The joint-hosts, Holland and Belgium, are guaranteed places but the holders, Germany, are not...

GROUP ONE

Table for Group One of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP TWO

Table for Group Two of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP THREE

Table for Group Three of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP FOUR

Table for Group Four of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP FIVE

Table for Group Five of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP SIX

Table for Group Six of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP SEVEN

Table for Group Seven of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP EIGHT

Table for Group Eight of the European Championship qualifying matches.

GROUP NINE

Table for Group Nine of the European Championship qualifying matches.

OVERSEAS

Table showing overseas football matches and results.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table showing non-league and national league matches and results.

UNIBOND

Table showing Unibond league matches and results.

RYMAN

Table showing Ryman league matches and results.

DR MARTENS

Table showing Dr Martens league matches and results.

POOLS CHECK

Table showing pool check results for various leagues.



Bruce Grobbelaar takes charge on his return to the Nationwide League for Bury against Birmingham City at St Andrew's on Saturday. He had been playing for Chesham United in the Ryman League. Report, page 31

PRESTON MAKE POOL LACK OF SURFACE

Bristol Rovers' Preston have been criticised for their lack of surface...

TELEVISION

Details of television coverage for various football matches.

FOOTBALL

General football news and updates.

FOOTBALL

General football news and updates.

FOOTBALL

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FOOTBALL

General football news and updates.

Richmond reap rewards of wise investment

Revised Leicester looking good bet

Leicester 49, Harlequins 15

By Alan Pearce

THE bookmakers who set up stall at Welford Road can expect good business on the six subsequent home games of their trial stay. The Leicester public never lack faith in their team and initial evidence suggests a surge of Tigers' title betting slips will be traded in the coming weeks.

Richmond 41, Newcastle 29

By David Hand Rugby Correspondent

THESE are uncertain times for Newcastle. A year ago they marched enthusiastically into a new Allied Dunbar Premiership and swept Bath away. On Saturday, as champions, they were themselves dismantled. In the same way that the dream of Sir John Hall, their owner, for a new multisports power in the North East is struggling for sustenance.

gradually. If you don't build on bricks, the whole thing will come down around you. Kingston believes his foundations are in place whereas Newcastle now are making a virtue of necessity by proffering the skills of Ross Beattie (20) and Alan Chilton (19) — both home-brewed — as the way to go. That will be good news for national coaches such as Clive Woodward and Graham Henry, who were at the Madejski Stadium (Beattie is English, Chilton Welsh), but such youngsters were entitled to have a better example set them by Newcastle's present

Results 40

generation, which has never looked more anonymous in the area which powered them forward last season, back row and half back.

found his range when throwing in. Newcastle creaked badly, with Paul Van Zandvliet absent injured and two loose-head props on the field. They will be reinforced next month with the arrival from South Africa of Marius Hurter, but Kingston, a former prop himself, possibly craved over the display of the eight-head, Darren Crompton.

Agustin Pichot is ideally equipped to take advantage of such dominance. The Argentine scrum half took time to settle when he arrived at Richmond a year ago. A move to Leicester was dangled before him, but now he has taken up a business studies course at Brunel University, he is fit, he is confident and there will be little better to admire this season than the break that drew two defenders and the adroit pass out of the tackle that created the space for Allan Bateman to score Richmond's third try on the interval.



Bateman bursts between Andrew and Graham to set up another Richmond attack

Irish fall foul of sin-bin ruling

Gloucester 29, London Irish 22

By Michael Aylwin

WHENEVER London Irish lose, with their do-or-die spirit, it is usually a fairly tragic experience, but their defeat at Gloucester on Saturday seemed particularly unfair. The Exiles displayed all the traditional Irish qualities (if fewer of their passports) but, for all their fire and athleticism, they were undone by, among other things, the latest controversial innovation: the sin-bin and its various side effects.

Clinical Bath take mystery out of the game

Bath 36, Wasps 27

By Mark Souster

RUGBY'S recurring theme in recent times has been that of confusion, so it was of little surprise that the advent of the new season was marked by more of the same at The Recreation Ground. Would Bath be in Europe? Had or had not yellow cards been dispensed with? Had Kenny Logan been pushed by Kirsty Young, his news-reader girlfriend, or had he jumped? Add to that the fact that Wasps had to change into an orange kit before kick off because Bath's new strip is predominantly black, and questions about Tony Swift's new role after a boardroom reshuffle, and you soon understand why such an air of uncertainty pervaded.

First things first and Europe which, as reigning continental champions, is of particular interest to Bath. Andy Robinson, their coach, professed his ignorance at claims made by Vernon Pugh that English clubs could well be in the European Cup this year, but in a twinkling in his eye suggested he may know more.

Worsley's temporary dismissal, ten minutes before half time, proved crucial. Wasps were deservedly 14-10 ahead, but Bath scented blood and made their advantage felt when, from a scrum on the 22, Jerry Guscott danced outside Nick Greenstock for the first of his two tries. Bath were never behind from then.

As for Logan he had woken on Saturday morning to find himself front-page, rather than back-page, news. He dodged tabloid reporters after the game in much the same manner as he had been a floundering Bath defence in the seventeenth minute. When he collected a loose pass from Rob Henderson on the 22, a try seemed a remote possibility, but the Scot put his head down and forced his way past three would-be tacklers to touch down. Logan insisted he had ended his relationship with Ms Young, and had done so to save his rugby career. Having moved from Stirling he admitted London's bright lights had turned his head: he had lost form and his international place. Jim Telfer, the Scotland director of rugby, who was running the rule over the Scottish contingent, would have been impressed by Logan's rediscovered focus.

Despite committing a plethora of errors Wasps looked a far more purposeful side than last season and, with a little more guile and creativity in midfield, should have won. But they were hindered by a poor performance from Gareth Rees, the fly half, who was off the pace in mind and body and who missed two straightforward conversions. Bath simply took their chances. They relied on the razor-sharp instincts of

Guscott and an imperious goalkicking performance by Mike Catt. His tally was 21 points from five penalties and three conversions and he did not miss a trick. The applause for his efforts was bettered only by that which greeted the return of Kevin Yates after his six-month ban. The crowd rose as one when Bath's prodigal son trotted on as a 58th-minute replacement for David Hilton.

Gloucester suffered a sin-bin dismissal, themselves in the second half, when Mapletoft was caught shirring, but the timing of the little maestro, who scored 24 of his team's 29 points, was immaculate as he returned to stroke home the penalty that Gloucester had just been awarded.

Swansea show right attitude

Swansea 32, West Hartlepool 26

By Gerald Davies

BOTH clubs are on what in other circumstances is euphemistically called a learning curve, a phrase normally reserved for when matters are churned out when matters are churned out as an interpretation of failure, accentuating the positive, not the negative. But clearly it is precisely this kind of attitude that these two clubs are on.

are one or two likely patrons waiting in the wings. From now on every Saturday offers a diet of keen competition. Swansea are therefore about to find out whether they have the stomach and the talent for the challenge.

two minutes later. That seemed to be it with defeat staring Swansea ignominiously in the face in this first of their rebellious outings. Going into injury time, Taylor and Arnold made the initial thrust before Simon Davies, who had scored in the first half and had hardly touched the ball in the meantime, sprinted for 40 metres for the winning try.

and Parks were sin-binned. Fuller followed a similar path in the second half. Mortuary's try from a quick penalty, converted by Lee Davies, gave the home team the half-time lead, which the fly half extended with a penalty after the interval. Brewer's try restored the visitors' confidence to stay in the contest.

Referees to join Welsh breakaway

By Mark Baldwin

DAVID PRICE, the rebel official in charge of the Bedford-Cardiff fixture on Saturday, predicted that more referees will break away from the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU). He also claimed that the Welsh public is fully behind their clubs, like Cardiff and Swansea, who are standing up for their beliefs in a British League as the best way forward for Wales.

Cooke plans cash check

Bedford 10, Cardiff 27

By Mark Baldwin

GEOFF COOKE, Bedford's chief executive, will seek assurances today from Frank Warren, the chairman, over the latter's failure to pay players of the newly promoted first division club for five weeks. Warren has promised wage cheques for September 14 but the players need convincing that they should turn out in good faith again for the Premiership One opener away to Sale on Saturday.

play a friendly — as we have done many, many times before. "I was pleased with the passion and spirit my players showed, but we have some proud people here. The players are the front-line troops but all of us involved at Bedford, on and off the field, are in this together. Frank Warren has told us we will be paid, and that he has been prevented from doing so until now by his court case with Don King. But all the club's directors intend to meet this week to discuss things."

On the left wing. On the other side of the pitch, Rory Underwood, still fallible under the high ball, failed to burn off Simon Hill when given one chance to thrill a disappointing 1,700 crowd.



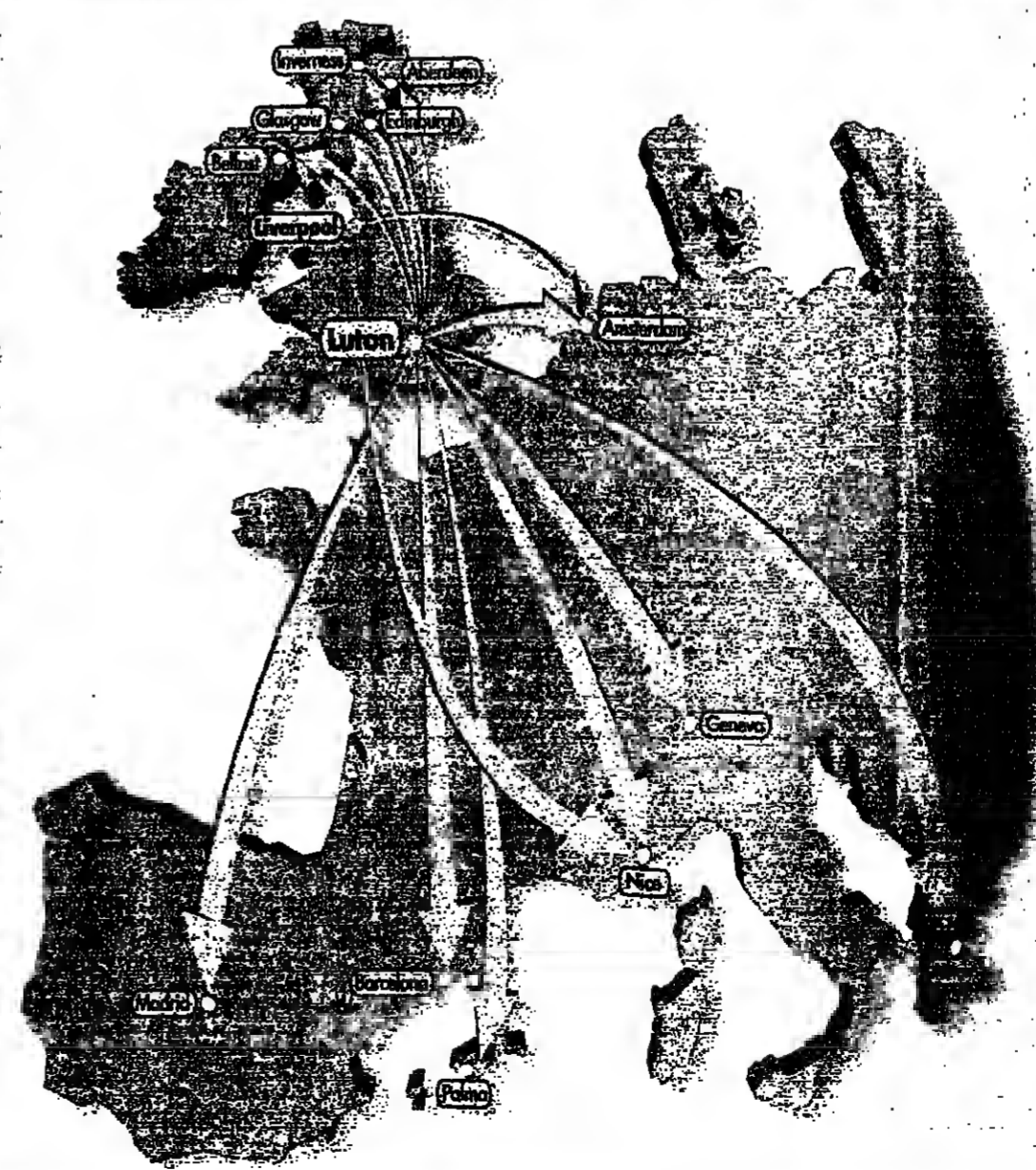
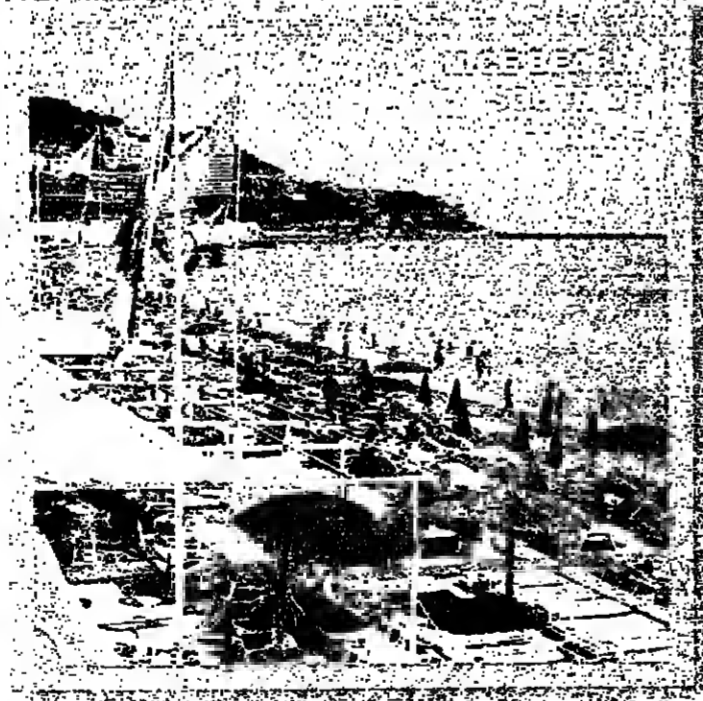
Simon Davies: two tries

SCHUMACHER, HAKKINEN or will it be DAMON again? 1998 ITALIAN GRAND PRIX AT MONZA

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THE TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

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FROM

- Winter
- City break
- UK break

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Days of travel	London Luton to Edinburgh	Edinburgh to London Luton	Days of travel	London Luton to Amsterdam	Amsterdam to London Luton	Days of travel	London Luton to Palma	Palma to London Luton
Mon-Thur	06:40 07:35	08:40 07:45	Mon-Thur	06:35 08:45	09:25 09:35	Mon-Thur	10:55 14:25	15:05 16:30

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 To qualify to purchase flights under this promotion, readers must collect 18 differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and three from *The Sunday Times* which will be printed between September 6 and October 3 1998 and attach them to a booking validation form. The flights may only be booked: a) through a special easyJet website (<http://times.easyjet.com>) whereby readers must have access to an Internet browser to a standard of 3.02 Microsoft Explorer or 3.1 Netscape or higher. Access to the booking facility on this site requires a password which will be published in *The Times* between Tuesday September 29 and Saturday October 3 1998; b) by telephoning a unique number to be printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between Tuesday September 29 and Saturday October 3 1998. Bookings for the promotional fares will only be accepted: a) through the promotional website between the hours of 6am and 2am from September 29 to October 8, 1998; b) by telephoning the unique number between the hours of 6am and 2am from September 29 to October 8, 1998. c) by telephoning the unique number from 3pm to 10pm between September 29 and October 8, 1998. Demand for flights within this promotion is expected to be high and neither easyJet nor Times Newspapers Ltd will be liable in the event that easyJet's reservations agents cannot be reached or any booking cannot be made due to the volume of calls. No postal or faxed bookings will be accepted under any circumstances. d) Flights will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bookings are strictly subject to availability and the number of seats available for this offer on each flight is restricted. An element of flexibility on both routes and dates of travel will be required on the part of the readers. Seats allocated to this offer may be fully booked even though the same flight is still available at easyJet's normal prices. e) Subject to the above, the offer is valid for the period between October 25, 1998 and March 24, 1999 inclusive, except for flights to

Madrid which are only available from January 8, 1999. All outward and return travel must be completed by March 24, 1999. f) The offer is valid for travel Monday to Thursday and on Saturday except to and from Geneva where no travel is permitted on Saturday. No travel is permitted on Friday or Sunday, or between December 20, 1998 and January 5, 1999 inclusive. There is no travel permitted between February 12 and 14, 1999 or for travel periods relating to international rugby and European football matches. There is no travel on the 0825 northbound flights to Edinburgh or the 0815 to Glasgow, or the 1740 southbound flights from Edinburgh or the 1725 from Glasgow. All travel must originate in the UK. g) Readers aged 18 or over are entitled to purchase single or return flights for up to two people in one booking with one complete set of tokens for use on qualifying easyJet flights only. Each single or return flight from either Luton, Liverpool, Belfast or Scottish airports represents a booking and there is a maximum of two bookings per household. h) Passengers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Infants aged 23 months or less, determined by age on date of travel, can travel free of charge on condition they share the same seat of travel as the adult accompanying them. Only one infant may accompany each adult. i) Collecting the required tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* does not constitute an entitlement to travel on a specific flight or on a specific route at a specific time. j) Each booking requires a complete set of tokens to be attached to a booking validation form and surrendered when checking in for the outward flight. Readers are responsible for keeping their tokens and presenting them at time of checking in. easyJet and Times Newspapers Limited accept no responsibility for lost, stolen, damaged or otherwise invalidated tokens. Photocopies or other reproductions of tokens will not be accepted. k) All bookings are non-refundable, non-transferable and non-changeable. Name changes are not permitted under any circumstances. All flights are subject to

change by easyJet without prior notice. Previous bookings made prior to this promotion cannot be exchanged or refunded for any flight acquired under this promotion. l) Passengers are responsible for obtaining and possessing, if appropriate, valid passports, visas and insurance. m) This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion or discounted rate. n) Payment, in UK sterling, must be made at the time of booking by Switch, Delta, MasterCard, Visa or American Express cards. Payment of cash or cheques will not be accepted under any circumstances. o) easyJet reserves the right not to accept multiple applications and bulk applications from trade or social groups. p) easyJet's Conditions of Carriage apply to all flights pursuant to this promotion and shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency with the terms of the promotion. easyJet reserves the right to vary its Conditions of Carriage at its discretion. q) Whether before or after tokens have been redeemed easyJet and Times Newspapers Ltd shall not be liable for any failure to fulfil this promotion where such failure is caused by any supervening circumstance amounting to force majeure. Such circumstances shall include but not be limited to, severe weather conditions, movement of land or other natural phenomena, industrial dispute, war, riots, acts of God, supervening legislation or events which, without the fault of either easyJet or Times Newspapers Ltd, render performance impossible or incapable of satisfactory execution. r) easyJet reserves the right to refuse carriage or to honour any application or recover the costs of any booking if they consider there has been an abuse of any of the terms or conditions of this promotion. s) The decision of easyJet and/or Times Newspapers Ltd in all matters under their respective control is final and binding. t) 19 Employees of Times Newspapers Limited and easyJet, and their families, are not eligible to purchase flights under this promotion.



CHANGING TIMES

Hidden catches mar return to Ireland

I owe Ireland a lot. Thirty-odd years ago it gave me my first trout to a fly. Twenty-odd years ago it gave me my first salmon and first sea trout. It has surrendered the biggest bags of perch, tench and bream that I have taken anywhere. For as long as I can remember, Ireland — and especially the west of Ireland — has flattered me.

Brian Clarke has his patience tested as he revisits a favourite haunt

Until, that is, last month. A fortnight in Connemara, half of that spent fishing the cream of that region's wonderful waters with some of its finest anglers, gave me a single fish. It was not just that I consistently failed: all of my companions failed as well.

So, an apocalypse in the making? Stocks collapsing and pollution rampant? No — or, at least, a qualified no. What happened was all in the game, simply the pendulum of chance and reward making one of its periodic adjustments. Swings and roundabouts, bags and blanks, are the stuff of angling.

That said, Ireland, like most places, does have its problems. The continuing, incomprehensible example is the ruin of so many great sea trout fisheries by salmon farming. For all the scientific studies demonstrating what happens, Ireland's Ministry of the Marine

continues to allow salmon farms to be sited in prime sea trout estuaries through which the migrating fish must run. Sea life, attracted by the salmon but driven away from the cages by chemicals, latch on to the passing trout and eat them alive. Many famous fisheries have been wiped out.

Ireland also has problems inland, many of them similar to our own. Rivers and lakes are being polluted by the over-use of fertilisers on the land and the inevitable leaching into the water that results. Some prime spawning streams are choked with algae. Spawning beds are being made unusable by the silt that farm animals stir up. And so on.

None of these problems, though, can be raised in defence of my performance. In-epitome, a wish to stick to traditional techniques, often adverse weather and the pendu-

lum of fate, were what took the toll.

I had driven to Lough Furnace with high hopes. The day before I arrived, Furnace had produced the 599th salmon of its season — a record. Under a blazing sun and on a near flat calm, not a fish was boated to round up the number.

I spent day two on Lough Corrib with the redoubtable Margaret Broadley. An old friend, she is a determined and wily game-fisher, as the 8lb box brown trout above her mantlepiece will attest. She is also a courageous but not reckless boat-handler. At 72, she is still out on the vastness of Corrib three times a week on average, mostly alone in her own small boat. She knows the north shore like the back of her hand and tried every likely inch of reachable water. Blank two.

The evening of day three saw me on the River Clare with father-and-son Ireland international flyfishers, Sonny and Declan Martyn. The Clare is a limestone river with a stock of big, resident trout. The men this season have taken fish to an incredible 9lb. Almost all of them came on warm, still evenings. Our evening was cold and blustery. Blank three.

Day four was on Lough



Broadley is a redoubtable character but her best efforts in Ireland came to nothing

Masker with Danny Goldrich. He works for the Western Regional Fisheries Board and has spent much of his life on water. He is a famed tough fisher and a master of the still-water dry fly. No sooner were we in the boat than the wind strengthened. We spent the day beneath scudding clouds,

lifting and sliding between white-topped rollers. It was a wild day, the kind of day, Goldrich said, on which "anything could happen". But it didn't. Blank four.

Day five saw me on the beautiful, pooten-clear Lough Carra, this time with Tom Byrne. He is one of Ireland's

new generation of competition anglers — young, keen-edged, open-minded and skilled. He lives in a house that backs onto the lake and his job as a schoolteacher gives him plenty of time to explore it. The weather seemed perfect — good cloud cover, a steady wind. And every minute was fished

intently, by both of us. Nothing.

A couple of days later, Byrne and I fished Maske. This time we had a searing sun and no wind. The water slumped like mercury in its bowl. Dragonflies clattered and hawked the margins. Bees drowned. The fish slumbered deep down — and stayed there.

By the evening of day seven, the last day I had allocated to fishing, a quiet desperado had set in. Sonny Martyn invited me back to the Clare and insisted on ghillying. The evening was not ideal but, with the last light almost gone, he eventually found me a fish. It was far upstream. Only the occasional sip it made at the surface and the faint ebbing rings winking light in the darkness revealed where. The trout took my small sedge first cast.

When it was landed, Sonny cheered and gave me a slap on the back that shook every bone I possessed. I whooped and danced a brief jig. The day — the holiday — had been saved, and saved spectacularly. The trout weighed 3lb 5oz. It was the second biggest wild brown I had taken on a dry fly from a river.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

BOXING Woodhall fails to convince

IF Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council super middleweight champion, wants a big money showdown with Joe Calzaghe, of Wales, the World Boxing Organisation champion, he will have a look better in his next contest than he did against Glenn Colley in Belfast (Srikumar Sa writes).

Although Woodhall retained his title by margins of two and three rounds, Colley should have been given the verdict. Indeed, when the final bell went, Woodhall put his arm round the Irish boxer and told him: "It's your fight."

Woodhall blazed his performance on Saturday on the change of opponent. He had trained for a slippery opponent in Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, and found himself facing a short, incoming fighter on whom he was unable to land a solid punch. "A world champion should be able to adapt to any style," he said.

Woodhall must now meet Nardiello and needs to produce an explosive performance to set up his confrontation with Calzaghe next year.

Street children find escape in cricket enclave

By STEPHEN WOOD

THEY are like aliens who have invaded a strange world but, just this once, they are welcomed and encouraged to stay. The sun is shining, the grass is green and lush and teenagers from the City of Salford are playing cricket.

The game is still new to some of the children, but they have left the streets behind for a few hours and become hooked on a pastime hardly renowned for its cross-class appeal. It is, perhaps, the single most noteworthy triumph of Youth Charter for Sport (YCS), the initiative designed to help antisocial children develop through sport.

Under the YCS umbrella, children from a selection of schools in Salford have been brought together at Winton Cricket Club to give cricket a try, or to advance their interest in the game. It has proved a big success for, on certain days, more children

turned up unannounced than can be catered for in one match. Most have obtained the traditional cricket whites to give their involvement an authenticity, but two boys who might not look the part certainly encapsulate the general feeling. Graeme Watkins and Gareth Guinnane, both 9 years-old, are in the middle of their summer holidays and Graeme, who attends Alder Park Primary School in Salford, said: "We love cricket and just wanted to play, so we came to have a look."

"We'd be bored if we couldn't come down here. I've only been into cricket for a couple of months but I want to play for Lancashire when I'm older. I prefer batting and I'm a good fielder as well."

Graeme and Gareth didn't realise it at the time, but they were doing the YCS proud. The group places great emphasis on development of children through education — and both lads were improving their numeracy while they were there.

"We couldn't play because there were too many children already here," said Gareth, a

former Alder Park pupil back in town to visit his cousin, Graeme. "So we looked after the scoring and worked on the scoreboard instead, but it's not as good as playing."

Graeme added: "My family thinks we're so boring because we like cricket and my mates don't want to come. They want to hang around the streets and like beating people up. I don't want to do that, although if I couldn't come here to play cricket, I don't know what I'd be doing."

YCS was the brainchild of Geoff Thompson, the former world karate champion, and he first targeted the children of Moss Side, Manchester. In 1993, YCS listed five "focus" sports it would concentrate on and in four of them — football, rugby, combat sports and tennis — it has given antisocial children opportunities they would not have had. It is fitting that, as it celebrates its fifth anniversary, YCS believes it has also cracked the elitist domain of cricket.

Annesley de Silva, the former Sri Lanka slow left-arm bowler, is now head coach of cricket for the City of Salford. He said: "We are achieving success in taking cricket to children who never thought it would be for them. Admittedly, it is a slow process. For all the children who have come to our coaching courses, there are as many still hanging around the streets. There are ways of attracting them, but we need more help from the schools."

Thompson, who echoes that sentiment, believes that Lancashire is waking up to the talent on its doorstep. Thompson said: "Lancashire have a responsibility to give these children the best chance at cricket they can. It doesn't matter if none of them don't play for Lancashire in the future. The most important thing is that, together, we can educate them, help advance their social awareness and give them self-esteem through cricket."



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SPEEDWAY

Panthers on brink

PETERBOROUGH have the chance to shake off Reading tonight when they travel to Berkshire to take on their nearest challengers in the Premier League championship race (Tony Hoare writes).

The Panthers have led the league since the start of the season and victory at Smallmead Stadium will make sure Reading cannot catch them in the end-of-season run-in. A victory for Peterborough would mean that only a late charge from either Sheffield or Hull could overhaul them as they seek the second championship in their 28-year history. Either of the Yorkshire clubs would need to win all of their

remaining matches to have a chance of winning the title. Peterborough, who last won the title in 1992, have based their success on a youth policy that has given them three of Britain's most talented prospects in the same season.

David Howe, the British under-16 champion, has risen from reserve to one of the best second strings in the country and Simon Stead and Oliver Allen have performed capably from the reserve berths. All are just 16 years old.

"It's all down to them," Peter Oakes, the Panthers promoter, said. "They are proving what we thought, that they can all make it in speedway."

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WOODCOCK fails to convince

ATHLETICS: GEBRSELASSIE, JONES AND EL GUERROUJ IN THREE-WAY TIE FOR JACKPOT IN MOSCOW

Bronson's wish goes unfulfilled

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN BRONSON says that his surname is so rare that...

The Bronson of the moment, with little apparent regard for self-preservation...

After six victories out of six in the Golden League, the Texan 400 metres hurdler...

Out of his blocks, as if panicked by the sound of the...

gun. Bronson put too much into the first 300 metres...

First, he lost \$250,000 when Stephane Diagana, the world champion from France...

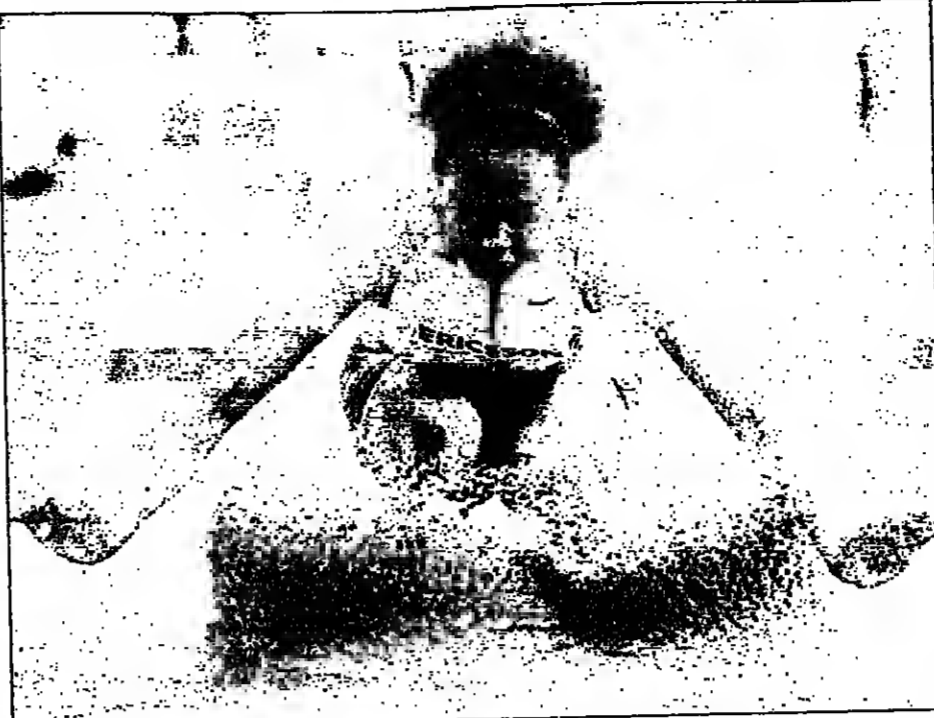
The jackpot for athletes with seven wins from the Golden League and grand-prix final...

One Jones, two events was the theme on Saturday...

introduced this year. It is lessened by there being more than one winner...

Alternatives might include: winning margin measured as a fraction of the distance run...

One Jones, two events was the theme on Saturday. After taking her unbeaten sequence to 31 individual contests...



Jones, of the United States, won the long jump and the 100 metres in Moscow

Jones was unfazed. As usual, Jones was not upright until almost 40 metres...

the 200 metres European champion. The performance of Jones served only to underline how the margin between her and others is growing...

for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where she will seek five gold medals, three individual and two from the relays...

Coutts's headsail decision pays off

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN PORTO CERVO, SARDINIA

THE Rolex Swan World Cup came to an action-packed finale on Saturday with the 82-strong fleet beating into the beginnings of a full-blown mistral blowing down the Sardinian coast...

While others, including Adam Gosling's 651, Yes!, experienced similar problems, Coutts and his crew on the Swan 60 got away smoothly...

THE RACE OFFERS failed to set a course with a true downwind leg - but the crews had plenty on their hands as they set off into a 22-30 knot wind through the islands...

whereas a No 3 would have left us in the pack," he said. Later, Coutts was the first in the fleet to call for a spinnaker as InnoVISION 5 led the chase behind Fling...

InnoVISION also numbered among its crew Marcel van Triest, the Dutch Whitbread navigator, and Chris Mason, of Britain. The team were the most consistent in the fleet...

Second overall was Loris Vaccari's Swan 46, Eurosis, with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy's 56, Noonmark V1, third. Among the other British boats, Stephen Fein's 48, Full Petal, slipped to eighth...

THE DINOSAURS LEFT IT.



GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY FOOTBALL

THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Huddersfield v Northwich (7.45) ...

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chesham v Alderley Edge ...

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Rastonia v Wycombe ...

NORTH WESTERN TRANS LEAGUE: First division: Chelmsley Wood v Adlestrop Collieries ...

OTHER SPORT: CRICKET: Am Trolley (one day) Londr: First Minor Counties Championship: Final ...

TOMORROW FOOTBALL: FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v Southampton (7.45) ...

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnley v Hove (7.45) ...

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-finals: Ayr v Rangers (8.00) ...

OTHER SPORT: RUGBY UNION: Welsh National League: Premier division: Aberystwyth v Llanelli ...

WEDNESDAY CRICKET: BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): Cheshire: Street Durham v Surrey ...

THURSDAY OTHER SPORT: GOLF: British Masters (in Coventry). EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim three day event (in Oxfordshire) ...

FRIDAY CRICKET: BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (two days): Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire ...

FOOTBALL: FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Wembleton (8.00) ...

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Tranmere v Huddersfield (7.45) ...

SATURDAY FOOTBALL: FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Wembleton (8.00) ...

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Birmingham (8.00) ...

THURSDAY OTHER SPORT: GOLF: British Masters (in Coventry). EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim three day event (in Oxfordshire) ...

FRIDAY CRICKET: BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (two days): Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire ...

FOOTBALL: FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham v Middlesbrough (1.00) ...

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bristol City v West Bromwich (1.00) ...

SUNDAY CRICKET: AXA LEAGUE (one day): Cheshire: Street Durham v Surrey ...

OTHER SPORT: ICE HOCKEY: Benson & Hedges Cup: Group A: Bradford Bees v Cardiff Devils ...

Advertisement for Marlboro Lights cigarettes with the slogan 'DON'T LET THEM BREATHE YOUR SMOKE' and 'Marlboro Lights 6 mg Tar 0.5 mg Nicotine'.

Continuation of the sports schedule for Sunday, including details for the FA Carling Premiership, Nationwide League, and other sports.

CRICKET

Durham far from thrill of the chase

By Richard Hobson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Durham won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Durham by 26 runs

A PRESS release issued by the Axa League spin doctors referring to a "thrilling finish" to the season as counties jostle for a place in the new National League next year became increasingly hard to reconcile yesterday with this contest between two depleted counties on a grey, windswept afternoon at the Riverside.

considered too wayward to feature in the competition. The youngster, selected for the England A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa last week, was not the only bowler to offer too many loose deliveries to the openers as they progressed at a rate of nearly six runs per over. In mitigation, Durham lacked Brown and Betts, but then Glamorgan were even worse affected, missing Waqar, Watkin, Thomas and Craft.

Roseberry sliced to cover in the third over and Morris, dropped first ball by Maynard, fell soon afterwards to a one-handed catch by Powell at deep square leg. Cosker missed a sharp return chance offered by Boon on 18, but the error never looked as though it would become decisive.

Matthew Maynard passed 5,000 runs in the competition as Glamorgan reached 232 for seven from 40 overs and, despite a 76 from David Boon and some late hitting by the lower order, Durham could only muster 206 for eight in reply.

It said much for the extent of the injuries afflicting Glamorgan that Maynard and Cooley shared the fifth bowler's duties. With this in mind, they could not afford to post a total below 200 after being put in to bat.

While Boon doubled his previous highest score in the competition this season, his timing was rarely fluent. Speight scored 28 of a third-wicket stand of 51, driving Cosker for six before hitting the left arm spinner to long off, and Collingwood and Lewis both succumbed tamely to Cooley.

When Boon did force Cosker straight with the middle of his bat, the ball whistled through the air within an inch of the ear of Dickie Bird on its way to the boundary. The nation's favourite umpire, officiating in his penultimate match before retiring to amuse the blue-rinse circuit, responded by waving a white handkerchief. In fact, the only surrender was from the home side.

Defiant Potter digs in to thwart Dorset

BOURNEMOUTH (first day of two; Dorset won toss): Dorset, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 135 runs behind Staffordshire

OBSTINATE pitches sharpen the competitive edges of seasoned professionals and a damp surface at Dean Park, now the home of Bournemouth University, had precisely that effect on Laurie Potter, the former Kent and Leicestershire all-rounder, in the Minor Counties championship final yesterday.

By Michael Austin

to 177 for six. Dorset, at 42 for two, when heavy rain ended play lamented not, accepting the umpires' offer of bad light immediately before losing two wickets off successive balls.

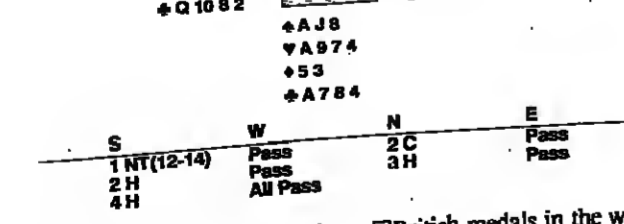
than 300 overs despite a wet season and his accuracy was rewarded with the wickets of Wellings and Mills, who was caught at long-on by the only deep fielder.

Dean had cut out of the field, to gully but Potter's vigilance and that of Steele, son of David, the former Northamptonshire and England batsman, sustained Staffordshire. Steele made 40 not out from 64 balls, surviving the loss of Harvey, run out by Scott's direct hit and Humphries, bowled by Cowley.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When you have a trump holding headed by the ace, with the opposition having the other high honours, ducking a round is frequently best, whether you are defender or declarer. Here is an example:



Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ten of spades. The idea on this type of hand is to duck a club, then duck a trump, then cash the ace of trumps. You have to assume the diamond finesse is right - otherwise the defence will have four tricks. Finally, cash all the side winners (taking the diamond finesse), then go backwards and forwards ruffing clubs in dummy and diamonds in hand. In effect you make three spade tricks, two hearts, two diamonds, one club and two ruffs.

British medals in the world championships in Lille were confined to the Elf Senior Pairs, won in convincing style by Boris Schapiro, who had celebrated his 89th birthday a few days previously and Irving Gordon.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



A soggy scene at Taunton as the covers go on for the final time after Somerset's match against Worcestershire was abandoned with the home side on 77 for four

Dakin displays a new trick

By Pat Gibson

LEICESTER (Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Middlesex by 160 runs

THE end of the season cannot come too soon for Middlesex. The slump that has already reached its bottom of finishing bottom of the Britannic Assurance county championship reached a new low yesterday when they were bowled out for 62, the lowest score in the Axa League this season, by Leicestershire.

Well as Ormond bowled for his best figures in the competition, it was an inept batting performance on a blameless pitch by a Middlesex side whose confidence and morale seemed to be at rock bottom. Only Ramprakash, the captain, who made 16, and Dutch, who finished on 16 not out, got into double figures.

Leicestershire could have been forgiven for saving their energies for the important matter of the county championship, where they now have a five-point lead with two matches to go, but they put it to the back of their minds to turn in an impressive all-round performance that virtually guarantees them a place in the top half of the table and qualification for the first division of the new National League next season.

Their total of 222 for eight was based on an opening partnership of 69 in 14 overs between Wells and Dakin. Though the middle order did not get very far, Simmons and Lewis picked up the momentum and Ormond finished the innings with a six through the window of the players' dining room.

He was to prove even more destructive with the ball. Middlesex got off to the worst possible start when Brown was run out off his first ball. Strauss was caught behind, Shah at cover and Ramprakash at long leg, but Ormond reserved his most meaningful delivery for Gattling, beating him for pace to rip out his middle stump.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of cricket scoreboards for various matches including Axia League, Somerset v Worcestershire, Essex v Nottinghamshire, Surrey v Kent, and Minor Counties Championship Play-Off.



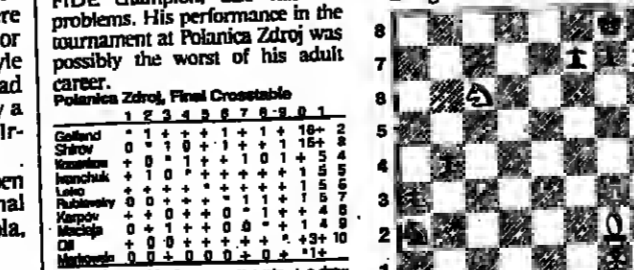
James Ormond: routed Middlesex

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Title Jeopardy According to reports on the internet, as yet unconfirmed by Kasparov, his forthcoming title defence against Alexei Shirov is in jeopardy. The report stated 'The match between Gary Kasparov and Alexei Shirov is not going to take place. The President of the World Chess Council (the organising body) Luis Renteria, had previously guaranteed that the prize fund for the match would be there, but after political manoeuvrings in Andalusia he found that he could no longer do so. Efforts to find alternative sponsors have so far been fruitless, so the match is now off the agenda unless funding can be found.'

Karpov's Disaster Meanwhile, as the following timetable shows the rival world champion, Anatoly Karpov - the FIDE champion, also has his problems. His performance in the tournament at Polanica Zdroj was possibly the worst of his adult career.



White: Tomasz Markowski Black: Alexei Shirov Polanica Zdroj 1998 King's Indian Attack

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Naylor - Spanton, Major Open, Torquay 1998. Although White has attacked the black bishop on d6, Black has countered against the white bishop on g5. How did White resolve the tension in his favour? Solution on page 46

THE TIMES TUESDAY 30p In tomorrow's 30p Times, read exclusive extracts from Richard Branson's autobiography, Losing My Virginity. The Times. Now 30p weekdays.

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard ZOPF a. A pigtail b. Bread and milk c. Lip salve MERCAPTANS a. Crisp biscuits b. Noxious compounds c. Shipmasters

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Naylor - Spanton, Major Open, Torquay 1998. Although White has attacked the black bishop on d6, Black has countered against the white bishop on g5. How did White resolve the tension in his favour? Solution on page 46

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

BLACKPOOL: T. Trotter (capt) 12, P. ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

CYCLING

ORDOONA: Tour of Spain: First stage ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

EQUESTRIANISM

BURGHLEY: Padraig O'Connell ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

HOCKEY

HARLESTON TOURNAMENT: Harlestone ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

MOTORCYCLING

IMOLA: San Marino Grand Prix ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

MOTOR RACING

DONINGTON PARK: FIA Grand Touring ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

BOXING

TELFORD: Super-bantamweight ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

BOATING

SCZEDEG: Hungary: Flotilla World ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

ROWING

COLOGNE: Germany: World Champion ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

GOLF

CRANS-SUR-SIÈRE, Switzerland: ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

STAFFORDSHIRE

STAFFORDSHIRE: ... 1st round: P. Trotter 12, P. ...

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Table with columns: Club, Points, Goals, etc. for various rugby league teams.

RUGBY UNION

Table with columns: Club, Points, Goals, etc. for various rugby union teams.

ATHLETICS

Table with columns: Event, Name, Time, etc. for various athletic events.

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Table with columns: Event, Name, Time, etc. for various athletic events.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Table with columns: School, Points, Goals, etc. for various schools.

TRACK AND FIELD

Table with columns: Event, Name, Time, etc. for various track and field events.

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BASEBALL

Table with columns: Team, Points, Goals, etc. for various baseball teams.

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Large advertisement for 'Desert' featuring a camel and text: 'THE TIMES MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998 RACING: LOOSE Desert'.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING RECORD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'BANKS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'BREWERIES PUBS & REST'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'BUILDING MATERIALS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'ELECTRICITY'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'ELECTRONIC & ELECT'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'CHEMICALS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'CONSTRUCTION'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'INSURANCE'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'DISTRIBUTORS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'INVESTMENT TRUSTS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'ENGINEERING VEHICLES'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'FOOD MANUFACTURERS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'HEALTHCARE'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'LEISURE & HOTELS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'SHORTS (under 5 years)'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 3% pa'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'OTHER FINANCIAL'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'MEDIA'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'PHARMACEUTICALS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'SUPPORT SERVICES'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'PRINTING & PAPER'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'MINING'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'PROPERTY'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'TELECOMMUNICATIONS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'TRANSPORT'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'OIL & GAS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'BRITISH FUNDS'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'RETAILERS, FOOD'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'WATER'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'RETAILERS, GENERAL'.

Table with columns: Unit Trust Name, Price, Yield, % Change, P/E Ratio. Includes sub-section 'ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET'.

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ARTS AND CRAFTS

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WINE TIPS

Rio Tinto mines a disappointing seam

RIO TINTO: Thursday's interim results from the biggest of the mining houses...

Depressed metal prices will have offset any benefit from acquisitions and increases in profitability...

BILLITON: It is hoped that full-year results later today will provide the share price with the impetus to retain its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies...

BTR: Brokers will be looking for the first signs of improvement after a £3 billion restructuring programme when interim results are unveiled on Thursday...

TODAY: Interim: Alexon Group, Bodycote, British Vint, Burmah Castrol...

TOMORROW: Interim: Aggregate Industries, William Baird, BBA Group, Brammer, Charter, Dagenham Motors...

WEDNESDAY: Interim: Albright & Wilson, Associated British Ports, Bank of Cyprus, British Fittings...

THURSDAY: Interim: Ask Central, BTR, Ben-tails, Booker, Dawson Group, James Beattie, Centrica, Chelsfield...

FRIDAY: Interim: British Regional Airlines, Dean Corp, Group Trust, Lionheart, Television Corp, Arthur Wood & Son...

The Sunday Times: Buy Scottish Media, Rolls-Royce, Celltech, Polypipe and Stat Plus. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Micro Focus and L Gardiner...

COMPANIES

band of £380 million to £410 million. That compares with £40 million last time...

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA: The media group announced plans to demerge its money-making operation in July...

Brokers have already had a chance to judge the results from several of Billiton's associate companies...

P&O: This is one company that will be watching the recent downturn on Wall Street with more than just passing interest...

TODAY: Interim: Alexon Group, Bodycote, British Vint, Burmah Castrol, Canderiv, Dewhirst, Ennstone...

TOMORROW: Interim: Aggregate Industries, William Baird, BBA Group, Brammer, Charter, Dagenham Motors...

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The Sunday Times: Buy Scottish Media, Rolls-Royce, Celltech, Polypipe and Stat Plus. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Micro Focus and L Gardiner...

and profit numbers that suggest P&O's share of the loss will be about £10 million...

WILLIAMS: The company was upbeat about prospects at the annual meeting in May, although it looks as if the bulk of the profits improvement will come in the second half...

NORWICH UNION: It will be difficult to gauge the group's interim results due out tomorrow. The comparative figure for last year was based on only 24 weeks...

Bonds will be highly sensitive to any hints of impending interest rate cuts in the US and other G7 countries...

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the upturn in the US countered by flat trading conditions in Britain and Asia...

CENTRICA: Brokers are uncertain about the outcome of interim results due out on Thursday. Estimates of net profits range from £30 million to £85 million...

THISTLE HOTELS: Shareholders must be praying for good news on Wednesday after the rollercoaster ride of recent months. Bid approaches sent its share price to 250p in June...

More important than any collection of statistical releases this week will be today's vote in Russia by the Duma on whether to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister...

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pared with £335 million last time. Life profits are reckoned to be 6 per cent ahead...

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MICHAEL CLARK Robert Wilson is expected to reveal a flat set of interim results for Rio Tinto on Thursday

Duma vote is of prime importance

More important than any collection of statistical releases this week will be today's vote in Russia by the Duma on whether to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister...

On Wednesday, July figures for new orders in the construction sector and private sector housing starts are published...

Overseas statistical releases include US second-quarter current account figures, out on Thursday. These are expected to show a further deterioration of the US trade position...

Advertisement for Hitachi Information Technology. It features a large image of a man in a suit using a magnifying glass to inspect a computer screen. Text includes 'INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY', 'Hitachi's DVD-RAM is a digital video disc capable of storing not only data but also film and music', and 'INNOVATION BY HITACHI TOUCHES PEOPLES' LIVES'.

Advertisement for Hitachi. It features the Hitachi logo and the text 'INNOVATION BY HITACHI TOUCHES PEOPLES' LIVES'. Below the logo, it says 'Contact Hitachi at: www.hitachi-eu.com'. To the right, there is a small illustration of a man in a suit holding a rolled-up document.

Hedge fund manager loses \$1bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

LEON COOPERMAN, the manager of the Omega hedge fund, one of America's biggest, has lost a quarter of his \$4 billion (£2.4 billion) net assets, joining an illustrious circle of the super-rich who have lost more than \$1 billion in the recent market plunge.

John Meriwether's \$4 billion Long-Term Capital Management has reported a 44 per cent drop in net assets. Mr Cooperman said that he and his team had invested big sums in hope of a recovery in emerging markets.

Wall Street has fared better, keeping losses far below \$1 billion. JP Morgan, the bank, disclosed Russian exposure of \$160 million and trading revenue of \$300 million in the quarter to August 27, against \$657 million in that quarter last year. The bank did not disclose the size of Russian losses. A spokesman said: "Providing overall trading revenues for the quarter so far is a lot more informative."

Morgan's profits are aided by income from merger advice and stock underwriting. In this year's second quarter, this was 31 per cent up, at \$334 million. Trading profits rose by 42 per cent, to \$920 million.

Insurer aims to grow from the start

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S second-biggest insurance group plans to use its launch this week as a platform to expand by making acquisitions across Europe.

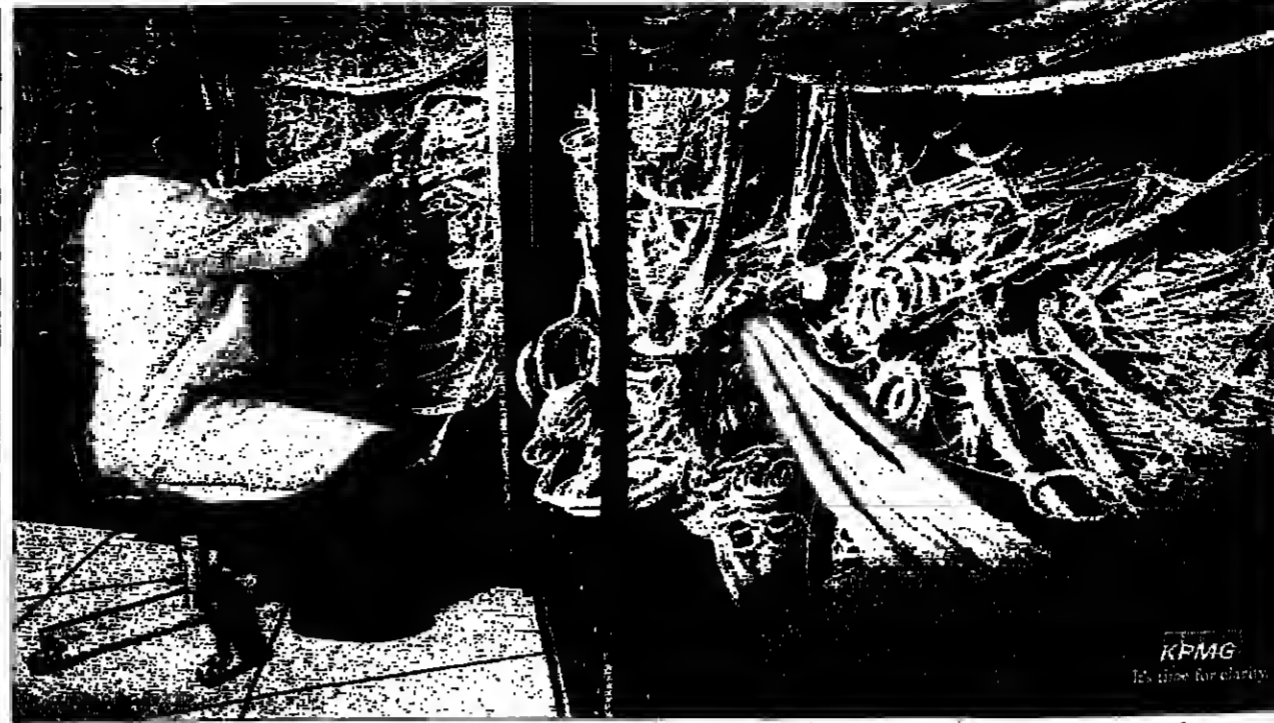
Trading in Allied Zurich, the financial services group formed from the merger of BAT Industries' financial services division and Zurich Group, the Swiss insurer, will begin tomorrow.

The new financial services group, to be known as Zurich Financial Services, or ZFS, will be owned by two holding companies. One, Allied Zurich, will be listed on the London Stock Exchange, while Zurich Allied, controlling 57 per cent, will be based in Zurich.

ZFS expects rising demand for pensions and other long-term savings plans and thinks it should set out to make its name in European markets.

The remaining tobacco businesses of BAT Industries will trade as British American Tobacco on the London Stock Exchange and will be the world's third-biggest tobacco group.

Both London-quoted compa-



KPMG's new advertising campaign will concentrate on the benefits of clarity in an age of tangled technology

KPMG launches \$60m campaign

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

KPMG, the accountancy group, is to launch a \$60 million (£8 million) international advertising campaign in an effort to change its image and build up its advisory business after it failed to merge with rival Ernst & Young.

The campaign will feature the slogan "KPMG—It's time for clarity". Advertisements will be shown on specialist television channels such as CNN International, BBC World and Star TV as well as in international magazines and on posters at airports.

The slogan is claimed to respond to surveys which showed that top business customers were snowed under with information and wanted clear, practical "single sheet" advice. But it could also apply to KPMG itself.

The group's perceived lack of a coherent international

Vickers to consider site closure

Vickers is understood to be considering over the next three weeks whether to close one of its two tank factories, unless it receives more orders.

The group employs about 600 people in Newcastle and 500 in Leeds, which is seen as more vulnerable.

Both factories are involved in production of the Challenger 2 tank.

Life looks at links

Brian Williamson, the new chairman of Life, is still considering possible links with other exchanges, including the London Stock Exchange, the derivatives exchange said yesterday.

Smiths in talks

Smiths Industries is negotiating the purchase of Biochem International, a US maker of non-invasive monitoring equipment, for \$83 million (£50 million).

IBM software

In our story on CWC's £1.8 billion outsourcing deal with IBM on September 3, we over-stated the fall in the latter's software division. In 1997, worldwide revenue from IBM software fell by 1.6 per cent. For the most recent quarter, to June this year, software revenue rose by 5 per cent.

Foresight and the case for lower rates

So far it has been easy. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets this week in the most difficult circumstances since its inception. Although some commentators (including this one) opposed the last rate rise and have openly argued the case for lower rates, until recently this has seemed a forlorn hope. But now the argument for rate reductions looks much stronger. Will the MPC oblige?

It is widely believed that as the slowdown in manufacturing spreads throughout the economy, lower interest rates will be inevitable. Yet this does not come to grips with the fundamental economics.

There is a view in the Bank that the economy may be operating well below the level of unemployment at which inflation accelerates (known to the cognoscenti as the NAIRU). Accordingly, even if the economy slows decisively, the level of economic activity may still be too high and the level of unemployment too low. In this case it may take a "considerable period of below-trend growth"—code for recession—to bring the economy back to where the Bank thinks it should be to ensure that the inflation target is met.

While this view prevails, the mere emergence of economic slowdown will not be enough to persuade the Bank to reduce rates.

This approach would be all very well if we had a clear idea of what the critical level of unemployment (the NAIRU) is. But we don't. There is also the not inconsiderable difficulty of forecasting the likely course of aggregate demand. The Bank's inflation reports make it seem as though this is a mere technical difficulty, aptly captured in the probability ranges in which the Bank's views are cast—known in the City as the "rivers of blood" charts, after the many shades of red shown cascading across the page into the future.

According to this approach, there is an X per cent probability of inflation being Y per cent in two years' time, and a whole range of probabilities attached to other possible outcomes. And these probabilities are not only knowable in principle but are actually known to the Bank. Funny that. In 1929, what was the probability of the Great Depression? Was it a 10 per cent chance in two years' time but a 20 per cent chance in three years' time, or vice versa? If only we had had the Bank's *Inflation Report* at the time to tell us.

This need to predict the future arises, of course, from the desire to influence it. Because of the lags between changes in interest rates and the effects on inflation, interest rate changes have to be pre-emptive.

It is no use waiting until the dreaded event is upon you. By that stage it is too late. This has been the justification for the repeated increases in interest rates over the past year.

But will the MPC be just as

forward-looking now? Somehow, I doubt it. Most members of the MPC were scarred by the experiences of the 1970s. The lessons learned then, and again in the late 1980s, have been burned into them: inflation is an ever-present danger; beware reacting to pressures for lower rates from the exchange market or the stock market; inflation will come back and hit you in the end.

These are people who will take a lot of persuading that inflation is set to fall, never mind accepting that the really big danger is not a resurgence of inflation but the reappearance of deflation for the first time since the 1930s. Accordingly, despite the rhetoric about being forward-looking and preventive, when it comes to cutting rates, they are likely to be slow and reactive.

This argument is even stronger when applied to the ECB, still trying to coat the euro with Teutonic anti-inflationary credibility when Europe is already hovering on the brink of falling prices.

What should the Bank do now? On the one side there are the internal inflation forecasts, complete with probability ranges. On the other, amid the solid evidence of substantial economic slowdown domestically and the alarming danger signs of global financial and economic crisis, there is the chance that these are way off beam.



ROGER BOOTLE

I know where I would put my money. I would vote for an immediate reduction in interest rates. This does not mean, though, that this is what I think the MPC will do. In my view, the money markets are currently over-estimating the scope for interest rates to fall in the near term.

By contrast, they are under-estimating the scope for them to fall in the medium term. Once it has become abundantly clear that the inflation danger is nugatory, quite apart from the economic imperatives, there will be powerful political pressures on the MPC to cut interest rates substantially.

Central bank independence is all the rage now primarily because it is widely believed that politicians manage monetary policy badly. Specifically, they are prone to increase interest rates only reluctantly, which imparts an inflationary bias. That was the lesson of the 1960s and 1970s.

But there is another sort of bias, the one which made political control of interest rates once respectable and which underpinned the nationalisation of the Bank of England in 1946. Central bankers are inclined to be slow to reduce interest rates and are too readily in the thrall of conventional opinion in the financial markets.

That was the lesson of the 1920s and 1930s. It suggested a conclusion which, in the recent headlong rush for "credibility" at all costs, has been obscured—at times of real crisis monetary policy is too important to be left to central bankers.

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THE FACTS
THE BOARD
America's DLJ to retail broking

Vickers to consider site closure

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THE FACTS

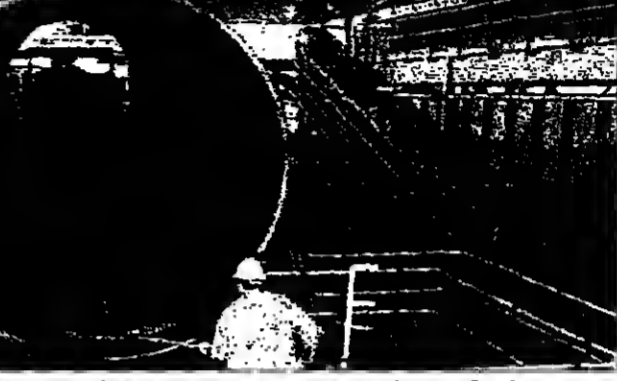
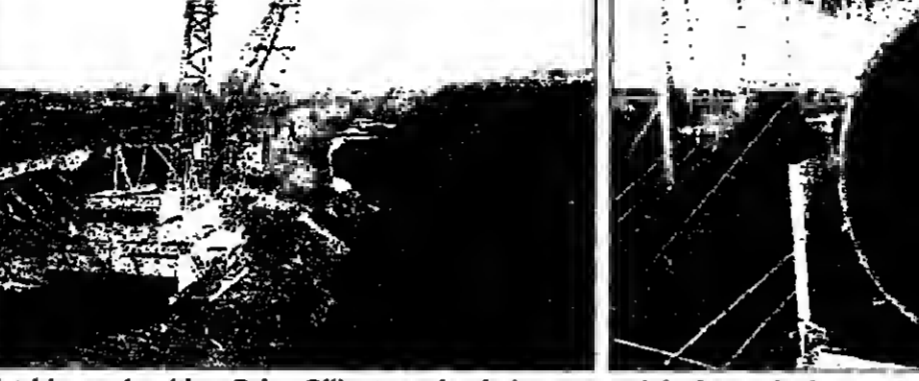
June 1997 figures for Billiton showed turnover of \$5.3 billion, net income of \$537 million and net assets of \$3.9 billion.

THE BOARD

Brian Gilbertson, aged 54, is chairman and chief executive. He is also a director of Engen and the South African Reserve Bank.

Brian Gilbertson has called the market abjectly right, but foresight has won the South African chairman of Billiton few friends in London.

CORPORATE PROFILE: Billiton



Watching and waiting: Brian Gilbertson, the chairman, top right, is now in the mood to invest, while investors await news about a fresh strategy for Billiton operations, such as ferro-metals, top left; a pelleting plant in South Africa, bottom right; and one of Ingwe's South African collieries

of the flotation and seems bemused by the level of disclosure expected of it. Innergy Works, the consultancy, reckons that the company lacks a succinct statement of business principles.

The big opportunity came when Shell decided to sell its oil and paper as well as gold, platinum and coal mining.

enough, but Billiton was still a big mouthful, \$2 billion of assets, and Gencor had just \$300 million offshore to play with.

build a new aluminium smelter in Mozambique; and a \$289 million bid for the outstanding minority share in Ingwe Coal.

The chairman and the finance director are widely known among the analytical fraternity as the top and bottom half of a tyrannosaur.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The market has not taken to the company, people have not warmed to them. There are worries that they are going to fall out of the FTSE 100.

America's DLJ to open UK retail broking arm

DONALDSON, Lufkin & Jenrette, the US investment bank, is building a retail broking operation in Britain and intends to have \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) under management by the end of the year.

Scotia warning on breast-pain drug

A DRUG taken by women to alleviate breast pain has been shown to be no better than a placebo in the most recent trial by Scotia Holdings, the drug development company.

Hillsdown poised to give details of split

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the troubled food group, is expected to use publication of interim results tomorrow as a chance to confirm that it intends to split itself into three quoted companies and sell assets so as to return cash to shareholders.

Table with 5 main columns: 1998 High/Low, Mid cap (million), Price, Why +/-, Yld % P/E. It lists numerous companies and their financial performance metrics.

OUR VERDICT: Ethical expression... 4/10. Fat cat quotient... 5/10. Financial record... 5/10. Share performance... 1/10.

CARL MORTSHED

